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SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1996

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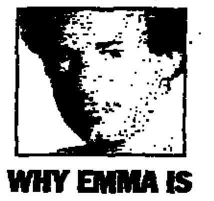
24-PAGE FASHION GUIDE in the

SIMON JENKINS



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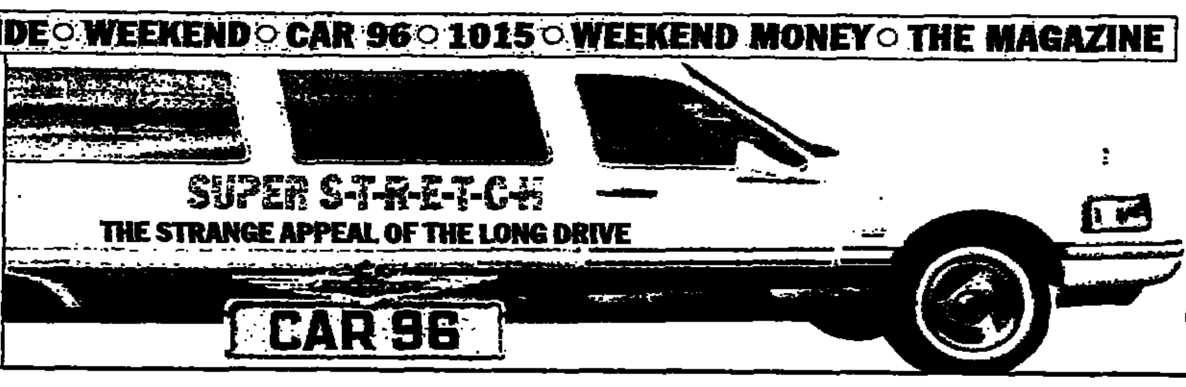


MONDAY

THE TIMES FOR ONLY 10p PLUS: GREAT LUXURY BREAKS OFFER

Blair ready for conference backlash

Unions warn Labour over severing links

By Jill Sherman and Philip Bassett

TRADE union leaders said yesterday that the Labour leadership would be committing political suicide if it went ahead with plans to sever the party's links with the unions.

Tony Blair is now bracing himself for a backlash at the party conference this month when trade unions may seek revenge for his repeated attempts to undermine them. John Monks, the TUC General Secretary and an ally of Mr Blair, delivered his second attack on the leadership this week when he said the conference in Blackpool had been dominated by "confusion not clarity" and demanded a "surer touch" from Labour.

Mr Monks is said to be furious that Mr Blair's plans to curb union power had overshadowed the TUC conference. But union leaders reserved their sharpest attacks for Stephen Byers, the Shadow Employment Minister, who identified himself as the source of the reports in several newspapers, including *The Times*, that Labour would break the union link.

John Edmonds, General Secretary of the GMB workers' union, called on the Labour leader to move Mr Byers from his post as industrial affairs spokesman after the shadow minister discussed the issue with journalists over a dinner in Blackpool on Wednesday. "Stephen Byers should carry a black box recorder so that after each accident we can all analyse exactly what happened," Mr Edmonds said.

Mr Byers had damaged his credibility with Labour and the unions, he added. "After a decent time, it would be wise to consider that he be moved sideways."

John Prescott, the Labour deputy leader, who was unaware of the proposal when he arrived in Blackpool, shrugged off the row, suggesting: "*This is massive speculation by a press looking for a major story.*"

Mr Byers told four political journalists of a contingency plan to ballot the entire party membership on ending the link with the unions if there was a wave of strikes in the first summer of a Labour government.

Yesterday the Labour leadership tried to distance Mr Blair from the reports, saying that no such plans were being drawn up by him. Mr Byers said that the journalists' version of the events would win the "Booker prize for fiction". But the four journalists, from *The Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Express* stood by their story. In interviews later, Mr Byers conceded that the historic links with the unions which founded the Labour Party in 1900 could be severed within five years.

The Tories immediately capitalised on the confusion, saying that Mr Byers held the briefing "in a shameless attempt to win votes from Middle England." John Major said that Labour seemed to be in an almost daily state of confusion. "What seems to be happening is their spin doctors have whispered something in private and when it becomes public, it is denied by the leadership."

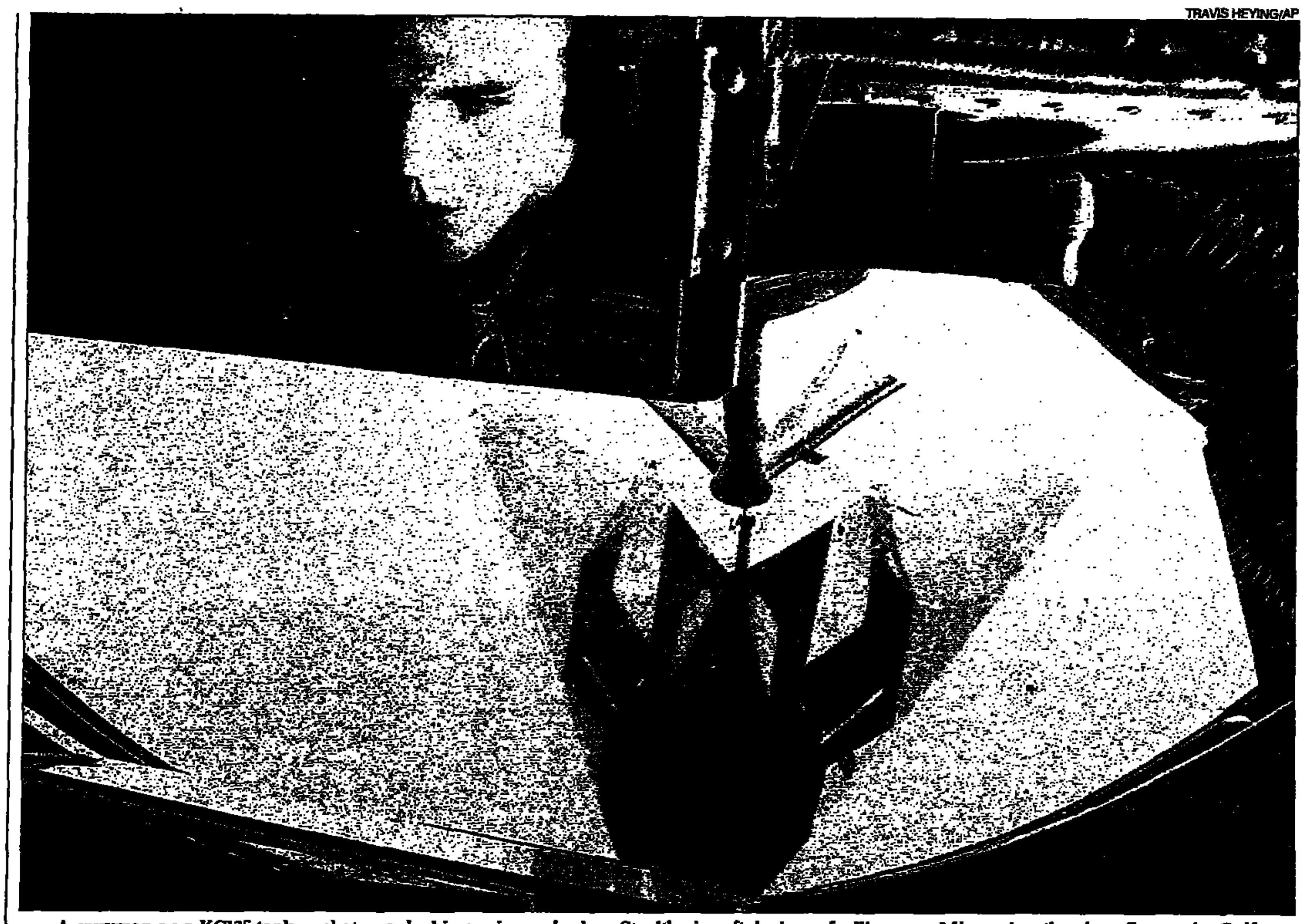
Lew Adams, General Secretary of train drivers' union, Aslef, said that Labour would be committing political suicide if it cut the union link. "We are not looking for confrontation with any government," he said. "I am fed up to the teeth with the way in which this TUC conference has been persistently hijacked by the politicians. These statements seem designed to achieve some form of popularism with the voters by kicking the trade unions."

Publicly, union leaders accepted the firm disavowal of the reports by Tony Blair's office, but privately many remain suspicious that the reports do indicate the direction of Labour's thinking about the trade unions.

Peter Riddell, page 20
Leading article, page 21

Moment of truth

A dinner at the Seafood Restaurant in Blackpool was the setting when Stephen Byers revealed that Labour would not be held to ransom by the unions **.............. Page 5**



TRAVIS HEYING/AP

A crewman on a KC135 tanker, photographed in a mirror, checks a Stealth aircraft during refuelling over Missouri as the plane flew to the Gulf

Stealth planes fly in to reassure Kuwait

From Michael Dynes in Kuwait City

AS EIGHT American F117 fighter-bombers landed at Kuwait's Al Jabar air base last night, the Kuwaiti Government defended its decision to allow the United States to augment its firepower in the region in anticipation of fresh air strikes on Iraq.

The Stealth aircraft, barely visible with their dull black camouflage and betrayed only by the roar of their powerful engines, were immediately taxied into hardened bunkers to prepare for their expected offensive against Iraqi positions.

Sheikh Saud Nasser al-Sabah, Kuwait's Information Minister, said yesterday that the Emirate had the right to take whatever measures it deemed necessary to defend itself in the face of threats from the Iraqi regime. Kuwait had the right to defend its territorial integrity, and "to take all precautions to safeguard its security, safety, and the well-being of its citizens," he said.

Extra police were deployed at checkpoints throughout the city on Thursday night to check identity papers amid rumours that Kuwait faced the threat of retaliatory terrorist attacks from Iraqi "fifth columnists".

Although there are no signs of panic among Kuwait's 1.8 million population, the authorities have been at pains to dispel rumours that President Saddam Hussein had moved troops towards the border and that the international airport had been closed.

Kuwaitis are still haunted by the memory of Iraq's invasion in August 1990, when the Republican Guard brushed aside Kuwait's defence forces in two hours, and took the entire city four hours later in a lightning strike.

Heightened tension now in the Gulf has coincided with the return of thousands of Kuwaitis from holiday. However, most Kuwaitis are convinced that the Saddam regime is simply unable to repeat the 1990 invasion.

Iraq's land and air forces were greatly weakened by the allied offensive to expel Iraq from Kuwait, and the cumulative effect of six years of UN sanctions. In addition, Kuwait has embarked on a frenzy of arms purchases in an attempt to equip its tiny 15,000-strong armed forces with the latest in high- tech weaponry.

Kuwaiti Radio yesterday poured scorn on the latest salvo of threats from Baghdad, insisting that "Iraq is once again hallucinating". Nevertheless, doctors have been forbidden to go on leave, and plans to clear hospital beds in case of an emergency have been put into operation.

Iraq halts attack, page 12

Record sales for The Times

Average daily sales of *The Times* were a monthly record in August. At 764,617, they were up by 10,833 on July and by 86,166 (12.7 per cent) on August 1995. This marks the third successive month in which monthly sales have reached record levels making *The Times* the fastest-growing quality newspaper in Britain.

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Nazi gold outcry drives Swiss to suspend banking secrecy

By Michael Binyon
Diplomatic Editor

THE Swiss Government, stung by the furore over Nazi gold held in Swiss bank vaults, is to publish a decree on Monday ordering all bank records and accounts of all wartime financial dealings with the Nazis to be turned over to a special investigating committee.

Anyone who destroys any document to prevent its publication will be sent to jail or fined up to SFr50,000 (about £28,000).

The draft decree obtained yesterday by *The Times* shows that the Swiss Government has decided that the controversy is now so embarrassing that the issue must be cleared up once and for all. The investigators will be given blanket powers to inspect all bank records, historical documents and other relevant archives. Banking secrecy, a pillar of the Swiss banking system, will be suspended until the investigators have completed their work.

The law will be confirmed by a referendum. The investigators will examine not only the German Reichsbank's sale of gold, but also the extent and fate of assets transferred to banks, insurance companies, lawyers, notaries, fiduciaries, asset managers or other individuals or groups based in Switzerland. This includes all money for deposit, investment or transfer to third parties and all assets received by the Swiss National Bank.

The investigators, whose work will begin as soon as possible, are also empowered to look at any money that belonged to the victims of Nazi rule, including those whose fate is uncertain and those who perished in the Holocaust. The experts will attempt to find out what happened to the assets that have not been recovered by legitimate claimants.

The draft says that the scope of the investigation will also cover all those who, as a consequence of racial laws or other discriminatory measures in the German Reich, had their property taken from them. And it will look at money coming from the Nazis themselves, much of which was believed to have been hurriedly deposited in Swiss

Continued on page 2, col 3

Share prices sweep to a new high

SHARES in London closed at a record high yesterday, helped by Wall Street which surged after a set of exceptionally good US inflation figures.

Investors in America regarded a rise during August of 0.1 per cent in consumer prices as a good enough performance to allay fears of interest rates being increased to counter inflation.

As a result the FT-SE 100 index rose 35.3 points to close at a record 3,967.9. Dealers last night expected the index to go through the 4,000 barrier for the first time next week. In mid-afternoon trading on Wall Street, the Dow-Jones industrial average was up 68 at 5840, well ahead of the previous record closing figure of 5778. **............ Page 25**

NHS trust for aged may fail after losing £17m contracts

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

AN NHS trust is facing bankruptcy after two health authorities announced they would no longer buy its services.

Anglian Harbours NHS Trust, based in Great Yarmouth, faces the loss of two thirds of its £26 million annual income after the East Norfolk and Suffolk health authorities said they planned to withdraw contracts worth over £17 million. The authorities said management costs were too high at the trust which provides community services for the elderly and mentally ill.

If it is forced out of business, Anglian Harbours would be the first NHS trust to fail. However, it is more likely to merge with a neighbouring trust, as has happened in the past when trusts have run into financial difficulties.

In a statement, the health authorities said the trust had difficulty recruiting consultant psychiatrists and experienced clinicians because of its small size. Switching the contracts to neighbouring trusts would save a potential £1 million in management costs.

David White, chief executive of Suffolk health authority, said: "This is a serious step not undertaken lightly. But the interests of local people are paramount."

Anglian Harbours has already lost its mental health contracts, worth £8.4 million, which is to be switched next April. The further contracts, to be withdrawn next August, are worth another £9 million. George Doran, chief executive of Anglian Harbours said: "I suppose losing that level of income would tend to imply that we are going out of business but that is for the trust board to decide, as and when it happens."

He said he had no prior warning of the decision and disputed the need for it. The trust board had asked both authorities to justify their actions.

A health department spokesman said the matter was one for the health authorities and the trust to sort out locally. Asked if the Government would allow the trust to go bankrupt, he said: "That hasn't happened before."

Vaccine price, page 10

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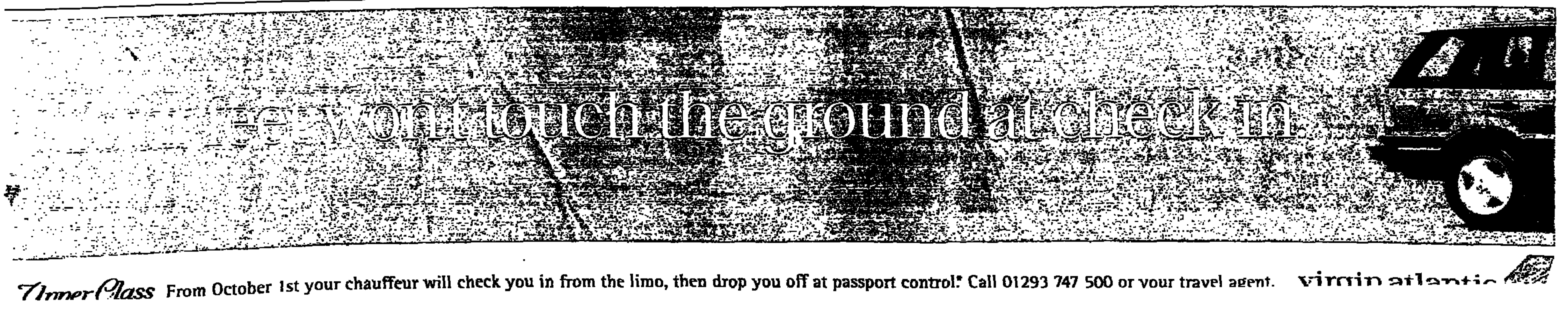

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THE TIMES ON MONDAY

16-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

EVERY SUMMER MONDAY 10P

THE BIG MATCH
David Miller reports from Stamford Bridge on Chelsea v Aston Villa

THE GREATEST GOAL I EVER SAW
Rob Hughes begins our series

PLUS: All Ireland Gaelic football final

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MY LIFE WITH MI5
For the first time, Stella Rimington, former head of MI5, writes about the most fictionalised job in the world

PLUS THE GAP AND HOW TO FILL IT
Day one of our series on how to have a great gap year

EVERY MONDAY: MATTHEW PARRIS, COLUMNIST OF THE YEAR

Driving bans may soon apply in all EU states

BY CHARLES BREMNER AND STEWART TENDLER

DRIVERS disqualified in one European Union country would be banned in all 15 member states under plans being studied by ministers and officials.

The scheme was set out in a draft convention by the Italians during their presidency of the EU earlier this year. It could become law by 1998.

The scheme would also stop motorists who are banned from driving in their home country applying for a licence in another member state, without necessarily having to inform that country's authorities of their status. Banned Germans, for example, have exploited the system by applying for licences in Britain.

The K4 committee of interior ministry officials is now looking at the convention. It would mainly ensure that information about driving bans was passed to other countries. It would be up to the countries to ensure that the ban was enforced there.

Most member states strongly support the principle of recognising driving bans and the subject has raised passions, especially in the northern states which have the strictest driving laws. The idea has been on the table for eight years already and introducing the scheme could take considerable negotiations but the idea has the blessing of MEPs and many international motoring agencies, including the AA and the RAC.

Yesterday the Department of Transport said any scheme would have to overcome legal differences between countries and different standards for disqualification. Britain, for example, has a different level of disqualification for drink-driving than some other EU countries. A spokesman for the Home Office said the scheme might be limited to particular types of offence.

A Commission spokeswoman said that the convention was still blocked by a series of objections by member states. She said: "It is not absolutely impossible that it will pass, but it is stuck for the time being."

Mutual recognition of disqualification has always run into member states' resistance to aligning national legislation on driving offences. They jealously guard their sovereignty over judicial affairs. Once broad agreement is found, an accord would have to be passed by the Council of Ministers. This could happen next year.

The European Parliament called for broad action on harmonising driving penalties earlier this month. The Brussels Commission effectively ruled this out because of the difficulty of pulling penal codes into line across the union. The Parliament also voted for the creation of an EU-wide penalty points system of the kind now operating in France and Britain.

"We think it's a point of principle," Mark Watts, a British Labour MEP, said after the first-reading amendment. "These people are driving a dangerous weapon. We cannot afford to give them the benefit of the doubt."

Neil Kinnock, the Transport Commissioner, said the Commission could not support the Parliament's call for a universal penalty points system because it was legally unworkable.

This effectively scuppered the parliamentary measure because Commission backing is required for an amendment to pass.

Nazi gold

Continued from page 1

accounts by senior Nazis before the collapse in 1945.

The decree is phrased in as broad a way as possible to include every aspect of the National Socialist state — "its institutions or representatives, as well as physical or legal persons closely connected with it, including all financial transactions which were carried out with these assets".

The aim clearly is to end the rumours which still circulate that well-placed fugitive Nazis were able to recover much of these ill-gotten gains from Swiss bank accounts after the war. It has even been argued — though briskly dismissed by the British Government and most historians — that Martin Bormann, the executor of Hitler's will, survived after escaping from the bunker and withdrew huge sums of Nazi gold under his own legal signature.

The law specifically empowers the investigators to look at the measures taken by Switzerland since 1945, including the controversial refusal by Swiss negotiators at first even to admit to the Allies that they held any gold bought from the Nazis.

If the experts make any new discovery or turn up previously unknown evidence of gold deposits, they will be authorised to change the scope of their investigation in the light of their findings. Privately, many bankers and Swiss officials say that it is unlikely they will find much that is new, especially as many of the key figures in the postwar negotiations are now dead.

The investigating team, still to be nominated, will be drawn by the Berne federal Government from a variety of fields. The British Government welcomed the move by the Swiss, saying that it would help to clear up the mystery of how the gold came to be stored in Switzerland.

Keith Jones, of the NFU, sings to promote an album of songs praising British beef yesterday

Tories attack 'insensitive' EU threat on beef imports

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

A THREAT to put Britain in the dock of the European Court for restricting cattle imports from the Continent was described as "extraordinarily insensitive" last night by John Major.

Franz Fischler, the Farm Commissioner, is to warn Britain that it is breaking EU law by blocking the import of foreign cattle less than 30 months old. Yet Britain imposed the ban as part of its curbs on BSE, to accompany the slaughter of domestic cattle over 30 months.

British officials say that administering the cull would be impossible without a parallel ban on imports. The Prime Minister said: "We have made a decision that people will not eat beef over 30 months old in this country on health grounds. I would think it is extraordinarily insensitive if that is the way that our colleagues in Europe behave.

"There are genuine concerns in this country about some of the developments taking place in the European Union. I share those concerns. We are often invited to be sensitive to European opinion. I invite the Europeans to be sensitive to our opinion."

An EU spokesman said that the warning to Britain — which could be followed by proceedings at the European Court of Justice — will also be applied to France, Germany, Spain and other EU states which have introduced restrictions seen as a breach of the single market.

France and Spain have bans on meat and bonemeal, and North Rhine Westphalia bans British dairy produce. Each government will be given a grace period to correct the alleged breach before court action. A Commission official said: "This is not something we want to do, but the member states know that they are breaking the rules when they impose their own import restrictions. Agreement has to be reached before such things can be done."

Officials said Germany was the main target of Herr Fischler's action. The action against Britain was ironic, given that it was itself the subject of a blanket ban, but its action could not be ignored.

Gerry Kiely, the Commission spokesman, noted that Britain would stand to gain if its infringement proceedings helped re-open markets on the Continent. On the action against Britain, he said: "There is a certain understanding of the difficulty of Britain's position, but we have a legal responsiblity."

The threat of court action will further sour the atmosphere as Douglas Hogg, the agriculture minister, prepares to present Britain's new case for revising the cull to European colleagues on Monday.

Major calls for end to soundbite politics

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

JOHN MAJOR ended his two-week tour of Britain last night with a plea to Tony Blair for an end to soundbite politics.

Despite making liberal use of them during his tour when discussing everything from his wife Norma to Labour's tax plans, the Prime Minister said he would prefer "mature debate" on the issues of the day.

Mr Major said he hoped the two leaders would be able to have serious discussions amid the "shot and shell" of everyday political battle in the run-up to the General Election.

He complained that politics was being trivialised and blamed the speed of modern reporting, which he said put pressure on politicians to give reactions to matters that had happened shortly beforehand on the other side of the world.

He said it was farcical that politicians were expected to have a view on everything, even hedge cutting in County Antrim. Instead they should be thinking about "the great issues that affect our life — our prosperity, our family, our nation and our future".

Speaking at a fundraising lunch in Glasgow for the Newspaper Press Fund, Mr Major said he wanted to concentrate his mind of the "great matters of the day rather than trivia," and he was wasting his time becoming involved in a battle of wits with interviewers over day-to-day controversy.

Mr Major called for a return to late 19th century politics when Prime Ministers were not constantly badgered by journalists looking for stories. "Just as the Midlothian Campaign and tariff reform could be debated in length and depth before the mass media age, so today issues like devolution, Europe and the future of Nato deserve serious attention," he said.

Labour said last night it was ludicrous for Mr Major to try to take the moral highground. Helen Liddell, Labour MP for Monklands East, said: "The Prime Minister ought to clean up his own act before he starts lecturing others. He should lead by example and dump the trivial demon eyes campaign against Tony Blair."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two more Tory MPs to retire

Two further Conservative MPs announced last night that they would retire from the Commons at the next general election, bringing to 59 the number who are to leave the Tory benches.

The senior backbenchers Sir Tom Arnold, 49, MP for Hazel Grove, and Barry Porter, 57, MP for Wirral South, are both standing down for medical reasons. Sir Tom, who has been MP for the Cheshire constituency for 22 years, contracted malaria in Africa earlier this year. John Carlisle announced earlier this week that he was standing down from his Luton North constituency because he wanted "to pursue other interests".

Museum given war medals.

A collection of medals awarded to Rosine Witton, a member of the French Resistance who helped more than 70 Allied airmen to escape capture in the Second World War, was formally presented to the Imperial War Museum.

Madame Witton, née Therier, who died last year aged 89, joined the Resistance after the arrest and deportation to Germany of her British husband. She helped Allied servicemen on the run in France after Dunkirk.

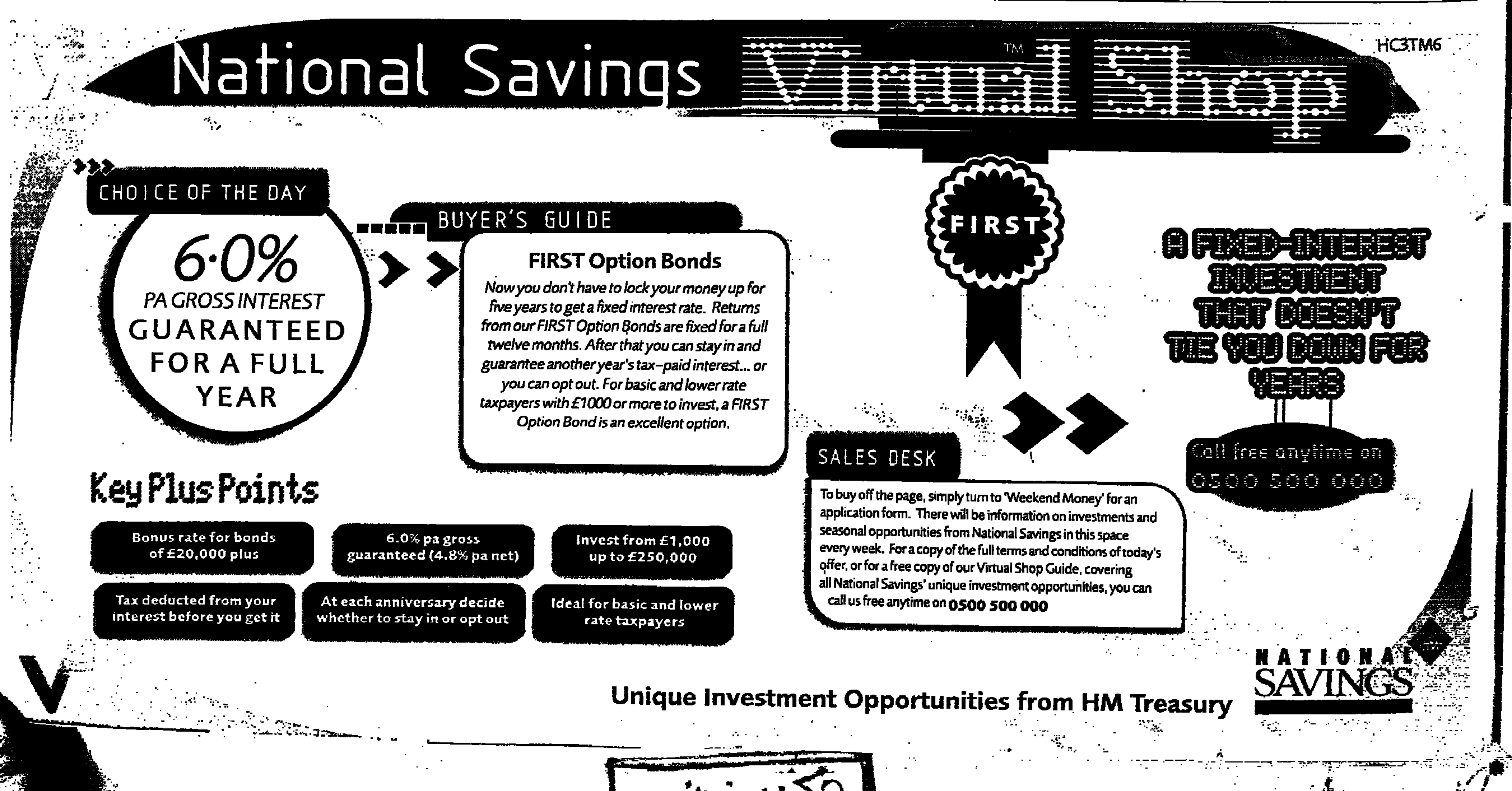
Asylum seekers' ruling delayed

A High Court judge yesterday reserved judgment on an attempt to force local councils to provide asylum seekers "with the basics for survival" while their claims for refugee status are considered by the Government.

Earlier, Nigel Pleming, QC, appearing for the Health Secretary, said it was a clear decision by Parliament to deny public funds or housing to those who did not claim at their port of entry and the courts could not interfere.

CORRECTION

The number to ring for information on Heritage Open Days is 0891 800603, not the number given on page 14 in some copies of Weekend today.



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NATIONAL SAVINGS

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Doctor mistook brain tumour for food allergy

By Stephen Farrell

Eliza Connelly: now partially paralysed

A GP WHO treated a five-year-old brain tumour patient with homoeopathic remedies was ordered to be struck off yesterday after he admitted mistaking her symptoms for a peanut butter allergy.

Dr Robert Blomfield, 58, was found guilty of serious professional misconduct after he failed to carry out a brain scan or reflexes test on Eliza May Connelly.

Eliza, now 12, was left paralysed on the left side, blind and partly deaf. She was sent to hospital for emergency brain surgery in March 1990 by another GP only when her parents moved to Liverpool from Dr Blomfield's practice in Hebden Bridge, west Yorkshire. The doctor wept as he admitted to the professional conduct committee of the General Medical Council that he might not have done enough to diagnose the illness.

Eliza's mother told the hearing that she went to his surgery in January 1990 when her daugher began suffering from vomiting, severe headaches, sensitivity to noise and light and started to walk with an uncoordinated "lolloping" gait. Despite these symptoms of a tumour, Dr Blomfield did not carry out a neurological examination or look into the child's eyes. Instead he diagnosed her as extremely sensitive and prescribed homoeopathic remedies, based mainly on deadly nightshade.

"I thought she might be allergic to orange juice or peanut butter, which she told me she liked," he told the hearing.

Announcing the finding of guilt on four charges the committee's chairman, Dr Jeremy Lee-Potter, condemned Dr Blomfield's treatment of Eliza as "grossly inadequate".

The hearing was told that on Eliza's second visit to Dr Blomfield, three weeks after the first, he diagnosed that she was probably suffering from hydrocephalus. But he carried out his first home visit only after his wife Jane, Eliza's teacher, noticed her strange walk in class and rang him immediately, realising something was wrong. Cross-examined by Miss Foster, she agreed it was "absolutely clear that this little girl was sick".

Dr Blomfield went to the family's house on March 30, only to find Eliza in severe pain and her parents extremely angry. "I came into a really serious situation. I was just thrown. It was as though I had been caught out, partly by my own fault," he told the hearing.

Despite correctly diagnosing hydrocephalus he did not write a referral letter, but simply gave Mrs Kennedy the address of a homoeopathic doctor in Liverpool.

On the family's arrival in Merseyside, friends took her to a local GP, who was "stunned" at Eliza's condition and immediately referred her to a specialist neurological unit at Walton Hospital for emergency surgery. She later developed meningitis and was in hospital for five months.

Rosalind Foster, counsel for the GMC, told Dr Blomfield: "You completely failed to take on board the elementary signs of danger. Some might have seen the condition of the child, scooped her into a car and taken her to hospital. Did that occur to you?" The GP replied: "No."

Malcolm Fortune, for Dr. Blomfield, said other GPs had treated Eliza and none noticed anything wrong. Dr Blomfield has 28 days in which to appeal.

GRANT NORMAN

Elaine Jordache arriving at Cambridge County Court with the Prime Minister's son yesterday

Major minor offers moral support to divorced friend

By Alan Hamilton

JAMES MAJOR, the Prime Minister's 22-year-old-son, spent three hours in court yesterday to offer moral support to a divorced woman with whom he has been romantically linked. He received a parking ticket for his pains.

While his parents prepared to travel to Balmoral for the Prime Minister's traditional summer weekend with the Queen, James Major sat in the waiting room of Cambridge County Court as Elaine Jordache and her former husband Michael remained closeted with judges and lawyers arguing over the final details of an acrimonious divorce that ended a six-year marriage.

James had travelled from Milton Keynes, where he is a Marks & Spencer trainee manager, apparently intending to comfort Mrs Jordache, 32, during a trying morning of legal negotiation. He sat patiently in the waiting room with Mrs Jordache's father but achieved little more than a brief wave as Mrs Jordache bustled from one courtroom to another with her legal team.

James had apparently hoped to be on hand to celebrate a final resolution to Mrs Jordache's divorce terms at lunchtime, but by 1pm, with legal argument still in full flow behind closed doors, he had to return to work. It was then that he found his car had been ticketed for a parking infringement. The divorce case was adjourned and the parties must return to court at a date to be arranged.

When Mr Jordache, 42, a shopkeeper from Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire, filed for divorce a year ago, he named James Major as the third party. The couple are reported to have met when James began training at the group's Cambridge store three years ago with Mrs Jordache as his supervisor. They were said to have been interviewed by company officials when their relationship became known; he has since been moved to Milton Keynes, she to Leicester.

Pop split of the decade off as Oasis make up

By Carol Midgley

OASIS, one of the more quarrelsome bands in modern pop history, appeared to have kissed and made up yesterday after it was announced that they would not be splitting after all.

The Gallagher brothers, Liam, 23, and Noel, 28, who days ago were at each others' throats while touring in America, were back in London.

Their record company, Creation, said: "Unfortunately the band will not be touring in the foreseeable future, but in every other respect Oasis will continue to function as a band. Oasis have all arrived back in England. Noel and Liam are spending time together."

Speculation was rife on Thursday that the band was about to split after Noel flew home to Britain alone after a dispute with his brother in which blows were exchanged. Their ninth American tour was abandoned two thirds of the way through, and fans feared that this time the rift was irreconcilable.

Thousands who had bought tickets for concerts in Atlanta, West Palm Beach, Orlando and Tampa, were claiming their money back. Although critics said it was a publicity stunt, sources close to the band said that the brothers genuinely had reached breaking point with the strain of touring.

Yesterday morning Liam flew into Gatwick from Atlanta with the rest of the band, refusing to comment. Surrounded by bodyguards, he was whisked into a waiting vehicle and refused even to trade his customary insults with reporters.

At one stage speculation over Noel's whereabouts was fuelled when a hired van collected two scooters from his home in St John's Wood. The pink and pale blue Velociferos, belonging to Gallagher and his girlfriend, Meg Matthews, were collected by two men.

The brothers will make a public appearance to clarify their position early next week, but the announcement puts in question Oasis's plans to play in Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Australia before Christmas. It also casts doubt on British concerts which Noel has hinted would be the group's Christmas present to faithful fans.

In their three-year career Oasis have been constantly on the road. American tours have been followed by European tours and more British dates, and it has taken its toll.

The Gallaghers' mother, Peggy, 53, said that she had a telephone call from both sons yesterday morning in which they confirmed that they were not splitting up. "They phoned here and they are both well," she said. "I am a lot happier now."

The promoter of last night's cancelled concert in Atlanta said that the band had agreed to reimburse the £13,500 incurred in expenses, and that there would be no legal action. Wallace Barr, of Landmark Entertainment, said: "I am sure they will get their differences sorted out."

A scooter is removed from Noel's home

Broker asks court to evict his girlfriend

By Kathryn Knight

A STOCKBROKER who thought he had found a bride through a dating agency had to resort to the courts to evict her from the home they shared after the relationship turned sour.

Colin Kettle's girlfriend, Sally, even changed her name from Tonkinson to Kettle. The couple shared a five-bedroom bungalow in Bromsgrove, Hereford and Worcester, and they set a wedding date for June. Ms Kettle, 43, refused to move after the relationship broke down in the spring. But in a last-minute deal she agreed to leave the house and return to her former home near Cardiff.

The red-brick bungalow, set back on a country lane in a small commuter-belt village, became the focus of a bitter wrangle in June after Mr Kettle, who works for the Birmingham stockbrokers Harris Allday Lea & Brooks, asked Ms Kettle to leave the bungalow which he had invited her to share in December last year.

The couple's relationship had blossomed after they met through a national dating agency in May 1994. Mr Kettle, 49, had recently split from his second wife and, after several dates, wrote to Ms Kettle and asked her to marry him and move into his house with her two children, Charlotte, 12 and David, 11.

She moved in just before Christmas and the wedding date was set, but the relationship deteriorated. Mr Kettle moved out and asked her to vacate the home but Ms Kettle, who has a hip condition and needs crutches, refused.

In a statement to Redditch Crown Court on Thursday, Deputy District Judge Brian O'Connell said the Ms Kettle had to leave the property by November 8.

Gambling manservant stole antique silver from count

A COUNT'S manservant who stole his employer's antique silver to pay for his gambling addiction was jailed for two years yesterday.

Rex Belarmino, 33, who lived in at the Italian banker's home in Belgravia, central London, repeatedly plundered the safe, using his knowledge of the alarm system. He took seven solid silver platters, nine silver trays and 21 silver plates, worth nearly £23,000, from Count Pietro Antonelli.

Belarmino, a trained reflexologist and physiotherapist who had continued his practice, pawned the items for £6,000. He spent all the

prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court. But unable to live with his guilt, he tearfully confessed his months of dishonesty to his employer.

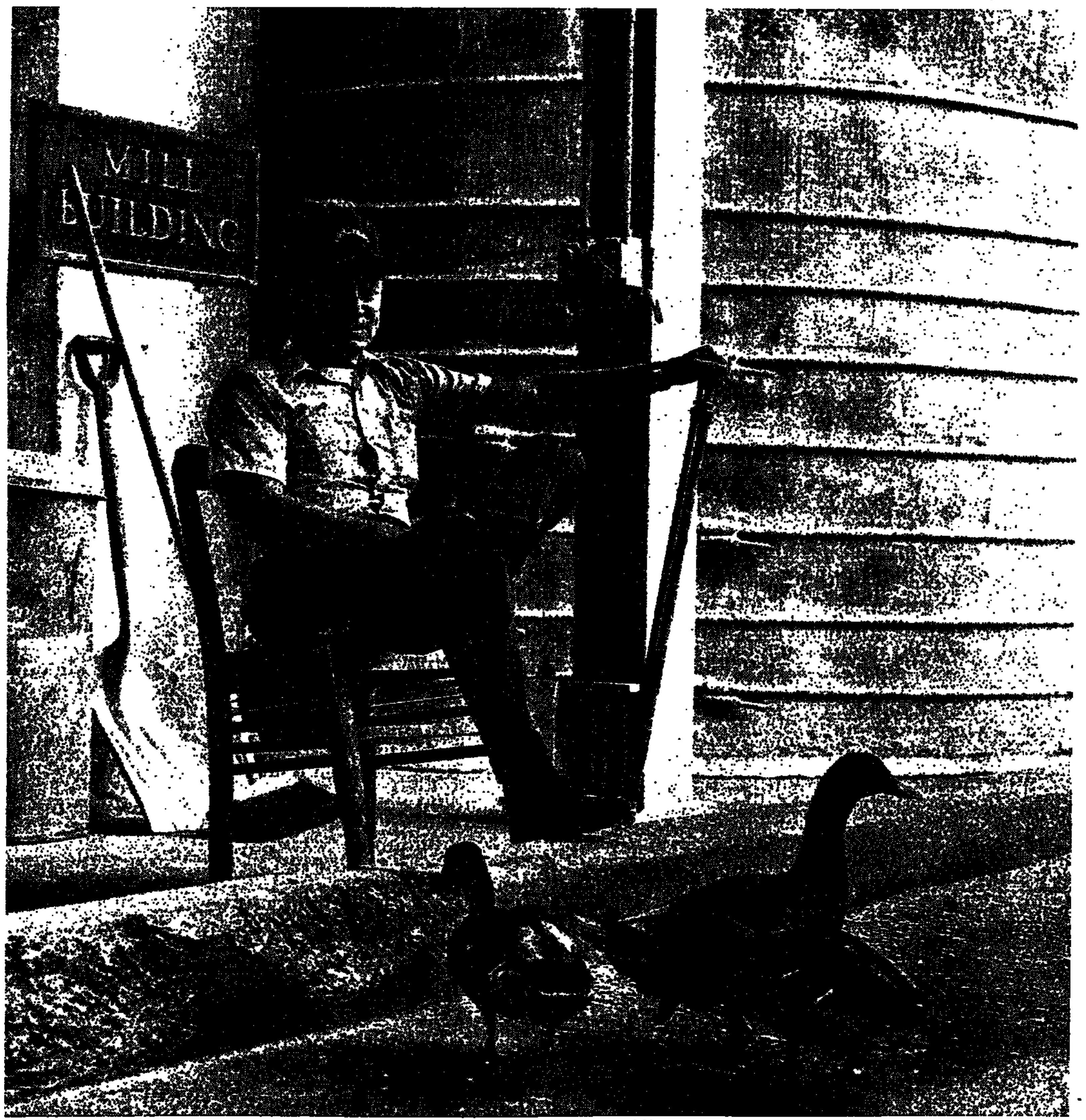
Judge Watts said that what Belarmino, who was born in the Philippines, had done amounted to "successive breaches of trust". He added: "They were committed for a reason which on a certain view aggravates the offences."

Belarmino admitted six offences of theft between February and July and asked for 14 similar charges to be considered. Jason Dunn-Shaw, Belarmino's barrister, had earlier told the court that a friendship between his client

ty and that there was every chance the banker would speak on his former housekeeper's behalf. But the count told defence solicitors that he was unable to attend court as he was about to leave the country for a pressing family engagement.

Miss Clover said that Belarmino came to Britain four years ago as a tourist and met and married a woman from his own country. They split up within a year. He was introduced to Count Antonelli, who employed him for £20 a week plus board and lodging.

Mr Dunn-Shaw said that the count had retrieved his



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THE SUNDAY TIMES

Not fade away

❛For nearly 40 years, the Buddy Holly legend has portrayed him as a chastely shining saint rather than a boy of flesh and blood. The truth is that in the tumultuous last two years of his life, love and sex got him into such a series of tangles that he nearly threw away his chance of fame . . .❜

Exclusive extract from Philip Norman's new biography of Buddy Holly — News Review. The Sunday Times tomorrow

Rejected Paige takes Broadway by storm at last

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

TWO decades after the American actors' union sourly prevented her from performing *Evita*, the West End star Elaine Paige was cheered to the gods and received a prolonged standing ovation on her Broadway debut.

Paige, singing the title role in Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Sunset Boulevard*, impressed American theatregoers with the power of her voice. New York critics yesterday talked of a "Sunset sensation" and an "impeccable performance" by the diminutive actress. "One can only hope she'll immigrate here permanently," David Stearns of *USA Today* said. "Probably the most remarkable voice in the popular musical theatre today," added Clive Barnes of the *New York Post*.

Sir Andrew, who was in the audience, said afterwards that he was thrilled by Paige's singing and only wished that he had cast her from the start of the show — this from a man who in the past has shattered the egos of leading ladies by telling them that they were not up to playing the part of the ageing Hollywood star Norma Desmond.

Members of the audience leaving the Minskoff theatre after Thursday's opening night could not get over Paige's performance. "Boy, that's some voice," one elderly woman said to her friend. "And did you see the size of the girl? It must be the British musical-hall tradition."

The show's spectacular sets had to be altered for the 5ft Paige. The steps on the sweeping staircase were raised a good few inches to prevent her from vanishing behind the bannister.

Some 250 friends and family members travelled to New York to support her. "Knowing they were there made me a bit emotional when I came out on stage at the start, but it is an emotional scene so that helped me," she said at the after-show party, where her 81-year-old mother, Irene, not to be outdone, gave an impromptu display of tap dancing.

Her octogenarian father, Eric Bickerstaff, a sometime drummer from Worthing, West Sussex, on his first trip to the United States, said: "I knew she could do it. I am very proud of her."

Paige's triumph coincides with a minor British boom on Broadway. The Royal National Theatre's Michael Gambon, who has also had trouble securing "landing permission" from the American actors' union, is making his Broadway debut in David Hare's play *Skylight*. He has been previewed by one excitable local paper as "the greatest actor in the English language".

Arts, page 17

MALCOLM CLARKE

Elaine Paige after her debut in *Sunset Boulevard*

Nurses quit over claims of abuse against elderly

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

TWO senior nurses resigned and five others have been suspended after allegations of abuse against elderly patients at a Glasgow hospital. An independent investigation is being launched into claims that patients were mentally abused, neglected and had belongings stolen while they were on a long-stay ward in the geriatric unit of Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow.

Barrie Small, chief executive of the Victoria Infirmary NHS trust, said that the results of an internal report were being passed to Greater Glasgow Health Board to enable it to conduct an inquiry. The suspended nurses face disciplinary hearings next week.

The senior nurse in charge of the geriatric ward resigned yesterday, two days after a staff nurse quit. Both are male.

The internal report revealed cruelty, racism and theft, possibly dating back two years, at the 32-bed North 4 Ward. Mike Watson, Glasgow Central MP, met the trust management yesterday to ask why the allegations had not come to light more quickly.

He said he believed that it was the fifth time since last year that he had visited the hospital because of complaints. At Christmas bodies were left in a corridor outside the overflowing mortuary. He said: "It is obviously a matter of great concern, particularly that nobody came forward within the existing structure of the hospital to reveal what was going on."

The allegations include claims that one nurse, who has worked on the ward for two years, tormented a Jewish patient, refused to call a priest for a dying patient and forced a Sikh to eat meat until he was sick. There were also complaints that he sexually harassed staff and was intolerant of their religious beliefs.

He was alleged to have given a terminally ill patient oral medicine and refused to help when she choked. Patients' dressings were not changed and one patient was called Victor Meldrew, making him cry.

The suspicions of ill-treatment are thought to have emerged during investigations into allegations of financial irregularities on the ward, prompted by an anonymous phonecall. An internal inquiry was launched in June amid claims that the charge nurse had stolen money from patients for about two years.

But during interviews with 45 workers and former hospital employees a picture of wider abuse emerged. The main allegations relate to the two nurses who have resigned. The five suspended nurses are alleged to have known what was happening, but failed to raise the alarm.

Jim Devine, Unison regional organiser, called for an end to hospital "gagging orders" which prevented staff from making their concerns public.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Girl hit after crawling into road

A baby suffered severe head injuries after crawling into the path of a taxi. Christy Field, aged one, was knocked unconscious when the vehicle passed over her outside her home in Berinsfield, Oxfordshire, on Thursday.

She was in the paediatric intensive care unit of the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, last night. The taxi driver, David Max, was given sedation and was very upset. Police said it seemed that he could not have done anything to prevent the accident.

Diplomat sacked

Robert Coghlan, 54, the diplomat jailed for three years last week for smuggling 109 obscene videos into Britain, many featuring child pornography, has been dismissed by the Foreign Office. A decision on his pension will be made later.

Soccer stars' trial

A preliminary hearing at the High Court into seven charges of conspiracy and corruption faced by the football players Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers has ended. Their trial at Winchester Crown Court is set for January.

Roadside birth

Deborah Bell of Tadcaster, Yorkshire, gave birth to twin girls 11 miles apart as she was driven to hospital in Harrogate by her mother. Charlotte was born by the roadside and her sister, Harriet, in the hospital car park. Mrs Bell has three other children.

CORRECTION

A headline in some editions (September 11) wrongly referred to police guarding "Republicans" who had bought a Protestant's business from a bank. In fact, those concerned are citizens of Ireland and some are themselves Protestants. We apologise for the error.

Lilley's staff complain of political pressure

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT
WHITEHALL EDITOR

CIVIL servants at the Department of Social Security have made the highest number of complaints that ministers and political staff expect them to break their code of impartiality, it was claimed yesterday.

The charge was made by Jonathan Baume, deputy general secretary of the Association of First Division Civil Servants, who said: "Complaints have come from across departments, although the DSS stands out in particular as an area of difficulty."

Ministers at Peter Lilley's department were said to be surprised by the allegations. One source said: "We have a recognised complaints procedure and ministers are not aware that any complaints have been made under this. DSS ministers are punctilious in ensuring that the usual proprieties are observed."

A senior Conservative Party source said: "A lot of charges made by the FDA have proved to be unfounded and I expect these, too, will go the same way." Derek Foster, the Shadow spokesman on civil service issues, called on the Prime Minister to set up an independent investigation to look into the allegations.

Similar complaints about Whitehall problems were denied before the summer recess. Michael Helsetine, the Deputy Prime Minister, told the Commons there was not a shred of evidence. Roger Freeman, the Chancellor of the Duchy and Public Service Minister, claimed that the FDA was pursuing a political agenda.

Mr Baume's allegations emerged during the TUC conference. He said: "Members have been instructed to prepare material for manifestos, alter reports to provide political slant, paint a picture of policy in an unbalanced way, support visits by Conservative Central Office, cost opposition policies to favour party argument, and more."

Boy sees twin brother suffocate in corn pit

BY KATHRYN KNIGHT

A BOY watched helplessly as his identical twin suffocated to death after being sucked into a corn pit as they played at their parents' farm.

Benjamin and Christopher Chambers, 8, were playing in a barn when Benjamin was sucked inside the pit as he looked for a wellington boot. The boys' parents, Ivor and Kim, rushed out after hearing Christopher's screams and struggled to free their son as he sank into the corn. Paramedics also tried to resuscitate Benjamin but he was pronounced dead at Leicester Royal Infirmary. Paul Pugsley, a firefighter who was the first to reach the remote farmhouse at Bagworth, Leicestershire, said that Benjamin had been sucked down as if he was standing in quicksand.

"Once the parents had located the position of the boy, they started to dig him out," he said. "His mother tried desperately to free the trapped youngster and his father used a tractor to remove corn. It was a real team effort but all to no avail."

John Glass, Ben's headteacher, said: "He was a very bright, happy and popular boy."

هكذا من الاصل

Journalists followed rules of lobby briefing, but Byers was worried he had said too much

Meal that left minister with a nasty aftertaste

Jill Sherman, one of the reporters who dined with Labour's employment spokesman, describes how his name ended up in the news

A DINNER at the Seafood Restaurant in Blackpool on Wednesday night proved to be the dramatic finale of a strategy to convince voters that Labour would not be held to ransom by the unions if it should gain power.

Over Dover sole and muscadet, Stephen Byers, a Labour employment spokesman, held forth with four political correspondents — Jon Hibbs from *The Daily Telegraph*, Roland Watson from the *Daily Express*, John Williams from the *Daily Mirror* and myself. He expanded on Labour thinking on a variety of issues, including the relationship between trade unions and the party.

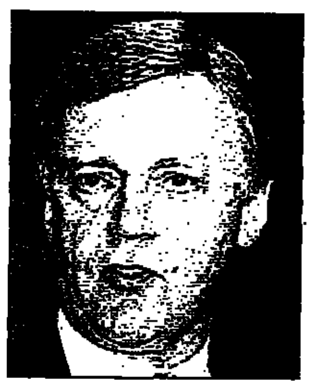
The meal in the popular, packed restaurant, was convivial. A relaxed Mr Byers openly discussed policy matters on "lobby rules", which require political journalists to protect their sources.

Lobby journalists from rival newspapers often get together to take out a politician during the conference season and, while they can use the information given, the convention is that the source is not identified. Mr Byers knew he could be more indiscreet because he would not be publicly identified. We joked when a BBC correspondent, armed with tape recorder, entered the restaurant but we were tucked away out of microphone reach.

After claret and coffee the journalists shared the £180 bill — including tip — before piling into a cab with Mr Byers to the Pembroke Hotel and then going our separate ways. There was no huddling to compare notes.

Yesterday Mr Byers accused us of printing the "Booker Prize for fiction" after reports of the sensational story he had dropped into the conversation appeared in Friday's papers.

Mr Byers, a Blair loyalist and enthusiastic moderniser, is regarded as one of the highflyers of the 1992 intake of MPs, moving rapidly from the Whips' Office to the Employment Department. At the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool this week he made his awkward debut as a spin doctor.



Monks: furious about conflicting reports

Yesterday *The Times* led with a report that Labour intended to break the link with the trade unions if they provoked a spate of strikes after Labour was elected. This would be done by balloting the party membership before putting it to a conference vote. Mr Byers, in accordance with lobby rules, was not named as the source of the report.

It was clear that the Labour leadership was considering the ultimate sanction — a severance of the historic link with the unions — as a threat to unions not to rock the boat. The conversation cannot be detailed without breaking lobby rules, but I stand by everything in that report.

Once spin-doctors were alerted by telephone calls that several papers were running a story about union links, they started issuing denials. These began at about 7pm, hours before they knew the substance of the reports. Mr Byers also issued a denial before the first edition of *The Times* had been printed.

In a bizarre move, he broke lobby rules by admitting that he had had dinner with the four of us. At 8.45pm he put out a statement conceding that he was the source, but denied the reports. By then he had merely had read out to him the headline of *The Times*'s first edition: "Blair ready to cut links with unions".

Yesterday morning the denials continued. Mr Byers had the onerous task of appearing on radio and television programmes all day. This morning he said the reports were "misleading" and "exaggerated". But by lunchtime he refused to rule out the possibility that the links would be broken in five years' time.

The denials and counter denials followed a familiar pattern. Earlier that week David Blunkett, the Shadow Employment Secretary and Mr Byers's boss, had been caught out in a similar process. On Sunday morning *The Sunday Times* carried a story — buried on page two — that Labour planned to introduce compulsory arbitration. Spin-doctors briefing on Sunday did not try to knock the story down. The trade unions gathering at the TUC conference were furious.

On Monday morning, Peter Hain, a Shadow Employment Minister, insisted that Labour was not talking about "compulsory arbitration" but "binding arbitration" on a voluntary basis. The next day Mr Blunkett wrote an article in the *Evening Standard* spelling out proposals to force unions to hold second ballots if the employers put forward an improved offer. John Monks, the TUC General Secretary, got hot under the collar at the idea of legislation.

MALCOLM CROFT

Stephen Byers yesterday, during his hectic round of radio and television appearances to defend himself

On the lunchtime bulletins, Mr Blunkett denied he was considering laws for second ballots. But Tony Blair confused the issue when he arrived to address a private dinner in Blackpool, when he said Labour would not "rush into legislation". Other party sources built up the story again that new laws were indeed on the agenda.

By now Mr Monks, a generally mild-mannered man who is a Blair ally, was furious about the conflicting reports and the renewed briefing that Labour would legislate. He was also angry that the party had hijacked his conference. In an unprecedented outburst against the Labour leadership he accused it of having issued confusing statements that served to push things backwards rather than forwards.

Relations deteriorated further between the Labour party and trade union leaders over the next two days when the TUC backed calls for a £4.26 minimum wage and an extension of workers' rights beyond current Labour policy.

By now the headlines were playing well for the Labour leadership. Mr Blair was said to be "delighted" about the reports of his determination to distance Labour from the unions. He had been anxious all week to play to the wider electorate and was "relaxed" about the union fury. Labour was getting across the message it intended to wavering Tory voters: that it was no longer in hock to the trade union barons.

Wednesday night provided the icing on the cake, although some feel that Mr Byers went harder than Mr Blair would have liked. As we finished our coffee at the Seafood Restaurant, Mr Byers quipped: "I hope I haven't told you too much." By 9pm on Thursday night he probably realised that he had.

Leading article, page 21

Influential Blairite struggles on the hook, but may yet break free

BY ALICE THOMSON
POLITICAL REPORTER

UNTIL Stephen Byers had his seafood dinner with four journalists in Blackpool, few people outside Westminster had ever heard of the Labour MP for Wallsend. John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader, described him yesterday as only "a junior employment spokesman".

His previous claim to fame was when he joined Peter Mandelson in shaving off his moustache last year, prompting fashion articles that facial hair was now unacceptably old Labour. But Mr Prescott knows that Mr Byers is actually far more influential.

Since Tony Blair won the leadership election two years ago, the 43-year-old MP has become one of the leading bright young social democrats in the inner circle and has been at the forefront of the modernisation programme. The Labour leader sees him as one of the most industrious, probing, combative and effective MPs on the Opposition benches.

Although Mr Byers entered Parliament only at the last election, he was given a crucial role in the last reshuffle as spokesman on industrial relations and the social chapter. It has put him in charge of two of the most contentious issues in the run-up to a general election. Mr Byers was busy early this year drawing up Labour's industrial policy document and, at the TUC conference, he was initially adept at smoothing over ruffles between the unions, his party and the media.

Friends hope that his comments over the Dover sole will not harm his prospects. Before this upset, they were convinced that if Labour won power, Mr Blair would reward Mr Byers with an influential post as the number two putting through controversial constitutional reforms. But they are worried that he was uncharacteristically flustered on radio programmes yesterday and said it was unlike him to use words such as "ludicrous" and to attack journalists for being "prime candidates for the Booker Prize of fiction".

One of Mr Byers's closest colleagues is convinced that he will ride it out and benefit. He said: "He has the ability to turn everything to his advantage. I can't believe he will be penalised in the same way that Clare Short was for her gaffes on cannabis and tax."

Mr Byers, who went to a grammar school and became a senior lecturer in law at Newcastle Polytechnic, has an impressive track record in local government and the unions. As an Education Minister, he clobbered his opponents during the Education Bill enacting opting out. He was also at the forefront of attacks on the Government's involvement in the arms-for-Iraq affair and was an effective whip.

He is usually adept with the press, knowing exactly which stories amuse them. He has enraged the union brotherhood, but whatever he said over supper may later be seen as the start of Mr Blair's most daring move to woo the voters.

Blackpool restaurant where the dinner took place

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IAN WALDIE/REUTERS

Antony Gormley tiptoes through his *Field for the British Isles* at the Hayward Gallery, London. The 40,000 terracotta figures are positioned to stare back at visitors

Union says some children are encouraged to defy discipline

Teachers attack poor parenting

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

THE expulsion of a violent five-year-old and a dispute over a disruptive boy of seven represent only the tip of an iceberg of indiscipline in primary schools, a teachers' leader said yesterday.

Nigel de Gruchy, the general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, blamed "negative parenting" for a rash of expulsions and disputes. He said that some parents were not merely failing to control their children but were encouraging them to defy teachers who try to impose discipline.

The closure of special schools was at the root of growing disciplinary problems, Mr de Gruchy said. "Integrating emotionally disturbed children into mainstream education, who would previously gone into special schools, has been a policy disaster on a par with care in the community."

Official figures show that an average of six primary schoolchildren are expelled every day of term. Mr de Gruchy, whose members at Manton School, in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, have refused to teach seven-year-old Matthew Wilson, said: "When children arrive at school on their first day — even nursery school — totally out of control, there is nothing teachers can do."

The latest disciplinary case involves a five-year-old boy expelled from a primary school in southeast Essex after 30 violent incidents involving pupils and staff. Some of the attacks took place while the boy was only four. The child, who has not been named, is said to have attacked teachers, pupils and dinner ladies. Some needed hospital treatment for cuts and bruises.

Essex County Council is trying to find another school to take him but the boy's reputation has made the search difficult. The education authority is providing home tuition at a cost of £5,000 a year, three times the bill for educating other pupils.

The attacks took place over several months and included swearing and spitting at classmates, throwing food at staff and making sexual comments to women teachers and girls at the school.

Mike Barnett, Essex's education spokesman, said: "The school tried everything it could to change the boy's attitude and make it more positive, but eventually it had no alternative but to exclude the child. There are only a small number of pupils who cause this sort of problem, but they can be very disruptive to the rest of the school."

Mr Barnett said that when the boy was expelled his father threatened the school's headmistress, saying that he would knee-cap her and wreck her car.

At Manton School, attempts to settle the dispute over ten-year-old Matthew Wilson failed on Thursday evening and parents continued their boycott yesterday.

A number of parents kept their children at home for the third day this week as Matthew Wilson was driven into school in an education authority car for his one-to-one tuition.

The £14,000-a-year cost of the service has led to protests by other parents. One mother, Bernadette Barrass, whose ten-year-old daughter Alison was kept away from the school yesterday, said: "Total isolation is unfair on the child. It is also money that other children need. There are other children in the school with their own needs too."

Mrs Barrass said of Matthew: "If he goes back into mainstream classes, the teachers are just going to go on strike. There has got to be a solution out there, but I will keep my daughter out of school as long as I have to."

Nottinghamshire County Council has refused to help the school to pay for Matthew's tuition or to reconsider the arrangement for at least another month. A council spokesman said that 30 children were kept away from the school yesterday.

All work and no playtime makes a dull child

By John O'Leary
Education Editor

SCHOOLS are damaging children's social development by cutting back traditional breaks and lunchtime recreation, psychologists report today.

A survey by academics at the London University Institute of Education found that most state schools have reduced the amount of free time allowed to pupils over the past five years. Lunchtimes are shorter and many schools have scrapped an afternoon break. Disciplinary problems and a wish to increase teaching time were the main reasons cited. Almost a quarter of the schools surveyed had reported a decline in pupils' behaviour at breaktime.

Dr Peter Blatchford, who carried out the research with Clare Sumpner in the institute's psychology and special needs group, said yesterday: "It is at breaktime that children develop a distinctive and vibrant culture, separate from the school culture and not easily recognised by adults. We need to consider more deliberately the effects of current educational policy and change in schools on pupils' social lives."

He will present the findings to the annual conference of the British Educational Research Association at Lancaster University. One result of change is that primary children had fewer opportunities to mix freely with their peers. Interaction at breaktime had added importance as they were more likely to be driven to school.

The conclusions were drawn from two studies, one of which sought the opinions of 100 pupils about breaktimes. The researchers found that breaks enabled children to "manage conflict and aggression", developing friendships and group relations, as well as simply having fun.

Dr Blatchford says in his paper: "There has been little recognition, especially at secondary school level, of the social and educational value of undirected activities. Life in the playground can help the acquisition of many subtle social skills."

Pupils get ID cards in security clampdown

By Paul Wilkinson

SENIOR pupils and teachers at a comprehensive school are carrying identity cards as part of a security clampdown in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.

In what is believed to be the first use of the passes for British children, sixth formers, teachers and other staff have all been told they must wear the identity badges before they will be allowed into Heaton Manor School in Newcastle upon Tyne.

The pupils have been included because they are allowed to attend lessons out of uniform and security staff might mistake an intruder as a student. The passes allow the holders to unlock external doors to the school premises, which have been closed as part of the extra security.

Peter Illingworth, the head teacher, said: "We all believe it is in everyone's interests. Each pass includes a photo and personal details of the holder. We are not trying to create a fortress, just a safer environment." The bill for the electronic swipe doorlocks and passes has been met from school funds.

Other security measures introduced at the school include new fencing, cutting the number of entrances and the installation of closed-circuit television cameras. Visitors are also issued with cards.

Babies used to sneak drugs into prisons

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

CHILDREN and probation officers are being body-searched before entering jails as part of a security clampdown.

Probation officers have been told they can expect a body frisk and examination of hair, ears and mouth at high security jails and other institutions in England and Wales. They may also be asked to remove their shoes and socks before entering a prison.

Children visiting relatives in top-security prisons may be asked to remove their outer clothing and babies are liable to be fully changed. In one case at Winchester Prison, the dress of a six-year-old girl was removed so that police officers could search the lining to see if there were any hidden drugs. Kayley Evans's dress was removed in the presence of her mother and a female police officer after a tip-off but no drugs were found.

The tougher measures follow reports into escapes from Whitemoor and Parkhurst prisons which were highly critical of security at 134 jails in England and Wales.

Prison officers suspect that drugs have been brought into jails hidden in nappies or baby food. Last year at Perth jail, cannabis was found concealed in a jacket in a child's buggy.

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Violent patient on the run from mental hospital

By Richard Ford
HOME CORRESPONDENT

Reynolds: dangerous if approached by public

A PSYCHIATRIC patient with a history of violence was being hunted by police last night after escaping from a hospital secure unit.

Staff attempted to follow Daniel Reynolds, who has previous convictions for theft and threatening behaviour, but lost him as he fled from Kneesworth House hospital at Bassingbourn, Cambridgeshire, an independent psychiatric hospital for mentally ill adults.

Reynolds, 29, who has a distinctive tattoo of the rock guitarist Jimi Hendrix on the side of his head, escaped after being allowed into the grounds on Thursday night.

Police in Cambridgeshire last night warned the public not to approach the Scotsman, who has a serious mental illness, as he was likely to be violent. Police sources said that Reynolds had been violent in the past when approached.

Keith Drummond, director of the hospital, said that Reynolds had been allowed only extremely limited access to the grounds of the hospital. "He was followed by staff but was able to evade them," he said.

Mr Drummond said that the hospital was concerned that Reynolds should be returned as quickly as possible to prevent any harm being done to the public or himself. "The decision to grant access was taken after extended assessment of the risks and was actioned strictly within our policies and procedures," he said. "Risks cannot be assessed in a scientific way and patients' actions do have to be assessed in realistic circumstances."

In October 1994 Christopher Smithson, 34, another patient with a history of violence, also absconded from the hospital. He was found 50 miles away in Kings Lynn, Norfolk. In November 1993, Kenneth Mullen went missing for the second time in three months. Three months earlier Jamil Jaffer, described as potentially dangerous, walked out of the hospital and was picked up the following day.

Reynolds's disapperance follows public alarm over the escape last month of Trevor Holland, a paedophile, while on a supervised visit to Chessington World of Adventures in Surrey. Mr Drummond, highlighting the dilemma facing medical staff treating psychiatric patients, said all psychiatric hospitals had rehabilitation programmes and that decisions to allow paedophiles to go on trips was based on a calculated assessment of the risks to the public against the potential benefits to patients.

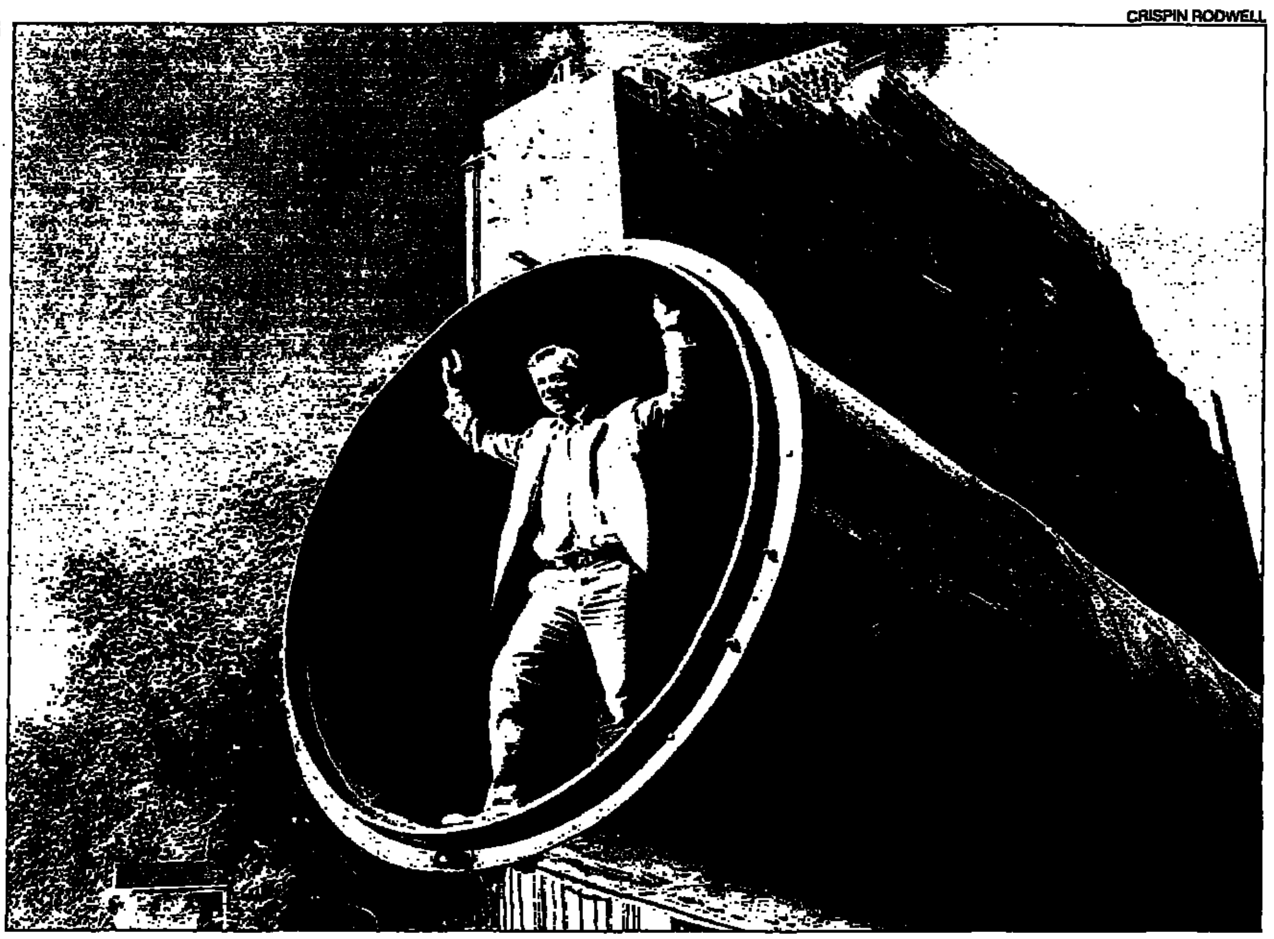
Ward rage threatens doctors

UNRULY patients complaining about waiting times and doctors' attitudes are causing so much disruption at one NHS trust that it has put the issue at the top of the agenda for its annual meeting on Monday.

Geoffrey Stocks, chairman of Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust, has castigated members of the public who abuse nurses and other hospital workers. "This is very upsetting for our staff and is to be deplored," he writes in a foreword to his annual report. "A number of patients and their friends feel it necessary to have rows about the way they are treated — ward rage as opposed to road rage."

A spokesman for Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton said: "We do get disruptive patients and families on the wards. That is upsetting to other patients and staff. It is part of the changing pattern of the type of some patients that we get in our hospitals."

The trust, which treated 63,000 patients last year, has received 115 complaints about the general standard of care and treatment. There were 63 written complaints about long waiting times for medical attention.



CRISPIN RODWELL

The Earl of Rosse with his restored Victorian telescope, the Leviathan of Parsonstown, at Birr Castle

Telescope with view of the past

By Nicholas Watt
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A GIANT Victorian telescope has been restored and returned to its rightful place in the grounds of one of Ireland's finest castles nearly 90 years after it was dismantled.

The "Leviathan of Parsonstown", with which dramatic astronomical discoveries were made in the last century, will form the centrepiece of Ireland's new Historic Science Centre at Birr Castle, Co Offaly.

Workers toiled through the night this week to mount the 54ft telescope between large stone walls where it was erected in 1845 by the 3rd Earl of Rosse, a distinguished mathematics student at Trinity College Dublin and Oxford. The present Earl of Rosse, the third earl's great-great-grandson, whose family, the Parsons, have lived at Birr Castle since the 17th century, said that the telescope was the greatest and most powerful in the world in the last century. It was built at a cost of £30,000 and the telescope's mirror was made in foundries fired by turf from local bogs.

A complex system of pulleys and cables operated by a team of assistants directed the telescope to whichever part of the sky the earl wanted to observe from the eyepiece 60ft above ground. A similar system will allow visitors to Birr Castle to enjoy the same views as the 3rd earl when the museum opens in 1998.

Important discoveries were made using the telescope, in spite of Ireland's inclement weather. Sir Bernard Lovell, the astronomer, wrote of the telescope: "Objects hitherto seen only as dim areas of light were resolved. The most famous is the case of an object known as the Whirlpool Galaxy. Lord Rosse's drawing of this clearly shows the spiral arrangements of the stars. He had discovered the spiral galaxies which are now known to be similar to our own Milky Way."

The present Lord Rosse hailed the £1.2 million restoration of the telescope as the fulfilment of a lifetime's dream. "It really is a tremendous moment to have the Leviathan restored so that everyone can appreciate the achievement of the last century."

He added: "Ireland is amazingly dark and has little light pollution. The night skies are usually incredibly clear. So it was not crazy to erect a telescope in the middle of the bog."

The next hurdle for Lord Rosse is to raise money for a new mirror for the telescope. But he also has his eye on securing on loan the original mirror, which was acquired by the Science Museum in London in 1914.

£12m plea to rescue the house that time forgot

By Dalya Alberge
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A DECAYING stately home that has barely changed since the 18th century will lose its historic looks forever unless £12.7 million is raised by December.

The National Trust for Scotland has launched a desperate appeal for help, determined to prevent Newhailes, near Edinburgh, from being sold and stripped of its original decoration. A sale would mean that the walls decorated in the 1730s could be repainted and pictures dispersed to collectors around the world.

Sir Mark Dalrymple, the last baronet of Newhailes, died in 1976. His widow is distressed at having to sell the house, which was occupied by her husband's ancestors from 1707. Lady Dalrymple said: "Moving out will be a wrench, having lived here for 50 years."

After years of struggling against dry rot and the elements, proofing it against the wind and weather, the trustees of Sir Mark's estate have decided to donate the house and its grounds to the National Trust for Scotland on condition that they raise £12.7 million for the contents and restoration. Otherwise, everything will be sold.

The NTS estimates that £3 million needs to be spent on restoration over the next three to five years. It would, for example, repair the exquisite Baroque plasterwork whose gilded seashells is a motif found throughout the house. It has fallen to pieces over the years; Lady Dalrymple collected them into piles, hoping they could be put back one day.

Carpets and curtains are badly frayed and layers of dust remain untouched in parts of the house. Some of the windows are cracked, the garden is overgrown and the stable is decaying.

The National Art Collections Fund, Britain's largest art charity, fears that the house and its magnificent art collection could be lost if the appeal fails. It has taken the unusual step of buying four portraits from the collection for £245,000.

The Dalrymple family included distinguished lawyers who served as judges, Lord Advocates and Secretaries of State. The house is believed to have been designed by William and John Adam, whose team of craftsmen appear in the accounts.

Hidden architectural treasures open the door to visitors

Marble Arch: mounting a photographic exhibition

By Robin Young

THIS weekend 1,800 buildings normally closed to the public will open their doors, hoping to greet as many as one million visitors for a rare, and free, look round.

This is the third year that the Civic Trust and London Open House have co-ordinated such an opportunity to indulge public curiosity. This time some of the venues most in demand took advance reservations and several, such as Sandycombe House in Richmond, west London, designed by the artist J.M.W. Turner for his own occupation, are fully booked.

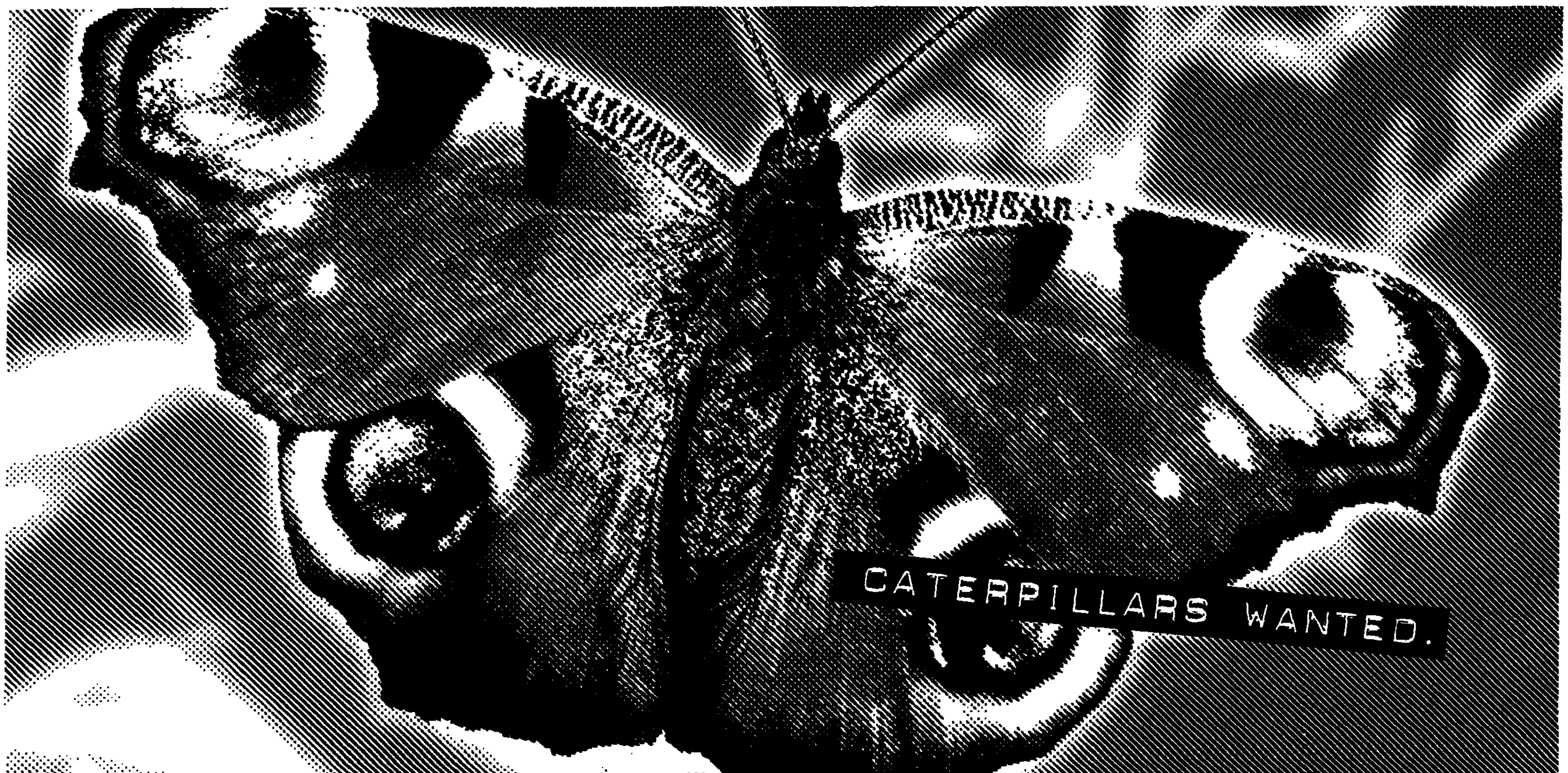
In London highlights of the programme include the opening of the recently refurbished Marble Arch, containing for the occasion a photographic display, *Amazing Arches*; the entrance foyer, staircase and principal rooms of Sir George Gilbert Scott's former Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras railway station; the College of Arms in Queen Victoria Street; and a recently renovated Carmelite monastery in Kensington Church Street.

John Young, architectural partner of Lord (formerly Sir Richard) Rogers, is opening his high-tech home The Deck House in Rainville Road, Hammersmith, west London, today until 1pm. The Slade School of Fine Art opens its building sculpture galleries, refurbished by Fraser Brown McKenna, tomorrow morning with tours every 30 minutes.

Around the country star attractions include Aintree racecourse in Liverpool; the new custom-designed North West Film Archive in Manchester; the National Monuments and Records Centre and the Renault Distribution Centre, used as a James Bond film set in *A View to a Kill*, in Swindon, Wiltshire; Cable and Wireless College, the company's training centre and winner of the Building of the Year Award 1994, in Coventry; the School of Jewellery in Birmingham; the Marble Hall, Norwich, designed by George Skipper in 1904 as offices for Norwich Union; the Anderton Boat Lift in Cheshire; the Prince Consort's Library in Aldershot, Hampshire, by Captain Francis Fowke who also designed the Royal Albert Hall; and Eye Power Station in Suffolk, where electriciy to heat 12,000 homes is generated from the droppings of 100,000 chickens.

Additional events are being organised at many of the properties. St Clements Church, East Thurrock, Essex, featured in *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, will have performances by the St Clements Ladies clog dancers.

Further information is available by phoning 0891 800603 or by looking at the Heritage News Page on the web site (http://www.rchme.gov.uk).



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British Association: chips that can do everything, and the pressures of looking like a living doll

Computer implant in brain gives sight to the blind

Reports by Nick Nuttall and Nigel Hawkes

A GROUP of blind people have had their sight partially restored by microchip implants in their brains, a researcher said yesterday. The chips have allowed the patients to see grainy images and outlines beamed to them from a camera.

Professor Peter Thomas, a British computing expert, said that the chip was put in the back of the head connected to the visual cortex by bio-engineers at Utah University. Speaking at the British Association meeting in Birmingham, he said that the team had been able to give blind people a rudimentary kind of vision, "like a grainy football scoreboard seen close up. They can see outlines of objects."

The sight research highlights how the personal computer, once a bulky device on an office desk, is becoming so small that it can be worn or slotted into parts of the body. Professor Thomas said that, within three decades, computers inside people's heads might be commonplace. They would provide people with undreamt-of forms of communication and computer-power memories.

They could, for instance, open a window in the brain for displaying visual information. But the first uses would be military, with troops dropped into a war zone carrying brain implants for communicating with base. Maps of the terrain could also be beamed in, allowing the soldier to navigate using links between his visual cortex and a string of satellites. The soldier would be able to travel light, without heavy communications equipment, and keep his hands free for firing weapons or for hand-to-hand combat.

Professor Thomas, of the computing department at the University of the West of England, said that there were scores of developments in the field. At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology researchers were trying to develop shoes that could pick up static electricity from carpets to power computer chips without the need for batteries.

He said that the forerunner of chips in the brain would be head-mounted displays — a small computer and cameras in goggles. The technology to aid mental power would end the embarrassment of forgetting someone's name or important information linked with social or business meetings. For example, the system would recognise a business contact using the camera and the computer memory, before calling up salient points about them. The head-mounted display could call up the last five subjects discussed with the person.

Professor Thomas said that simple wearable computers, disguised as watches and items clothing such as ties and shirt collars, were already emerging. "They will become a fashion accessory. Philips in The Netherlands is developing musical T-shirts. They have circuits woven into the cloth and you have a headset. So one day you can wear your hip-hop shirt and another day your rap T-shirt," he said. The wired fabric was washable.

Professor Thomas said: "The overall idea is that you carry all the computing power you need around on your body rather than in a bulky personal computer. Computers in the future will be fashion accessories with aesthetic designs."

As for chips in peoples' brains, Professor Thomas said that the barrier was not necessarily technical. "There are obviously medical, legal and ethical issues."

Leading article, page 21

MICHAEL POWELL

Professor Tom McLeish, nicknamed Professor Slime, with the fluid plastic he has produced. His research, funded by the European Commission and oil companies, will pave the way to novel plastics with curious properties. The green fluid plastic requires less energy to manufacture than conventional plastic

Sindy blamed for girls' weight fears

GIRLS as young as eight or nine are worried about their weight and many are dieting even though they are not overweight.

Dr Andrew Hill, of Leeds University, told the meeting that the pressure to be thin, reinforced by magazines, television and even the changing shapes of dolls, was already well-developed in pre-adolescent girls.

Sindy dolls provided one example of the pressures. "Originally manufactured in the early 1960s as a toy for young teenage girls, thirtysomething Sindy has lost her brunette bob, plain clothes and doll-like shape," he said. "She is now unashamedly blonde, pointedly thin, dressed immaculately with a lifestyle to match, and bought for the six, seven or eight-year-old girl. Not only does 90s Sindy depict the ideal appearance and lifestyle of 90s women, she does so for girls only halfway to puberty."

Dr Hill questioned 176 eight-year-olds, offering them images of different body shapes to discover how they perceived their bodies and whether they were aware of dieting. The girls consistently picked a body shape thinner than their own and those who were especially aware of dieting had the lowest self-esteem.

Similar tests with nine-year-olds produced the same results, with 41 per cent placing their preferred body shape at a point thinner than their own. When boys were asked the same questions, the opposite result emerged. Among nine-year-olds, 41 per cent placed wanted to be broader, with 28 per cent choosing a thinner shape. The worrying aspect of the girls' perception, he said, was that it lay in the opposite direction to their impending physical development.

Sarah Howard, public relations manager for Hasbro, which manufactures Sindy, said: "Why pick on Sindy?" Young girls spent only a small amount of time playing with the dolls. "An 11½in piece of plastic is not responsible for the ills of today's society.

"As a responsible toy and game manufacturer we have to make our products move with the times. We have done a lot of research with parents and they know what they want from fashion dolls."

Doctors accused, page 10

Sindy: thin, blonde and immaculately clad

Ministers accused of dishonesty over funding

Sir Derek: called for change of government

GOVERNMENT ministers were charged yesterday with "total ineptitude as well as dishonesty" over university funding.

Sir Derek Roberts, Provost of University College London, marked his accession to the presidency of the British Association for the Advancement of Science by launching a sharp attack on the Government, declaring that it was time for a change. "The present Government has been in power so long that it has become sloppy and thinks it can get away with anything," he said. "We have been governed so badly that almost anybody else deserves a chance."

He cited two examples of alleged ministerial dishonesty. The first came when the Prime Minister told the Commons that the universities had nothing to complain about since spending on them had risen by 23 per cent in real terms in the past ten years. "This is sophistry," he said. "It's being economical with the truth. The reality is that, over the same time, the number of students has increased by 70 per cent."

The second was the decision forced upon the Education Department by the Treasury to cut £400 million out of university equipment budgets. The department had claimed that the cuts could be made good by money from industry, a claim that Sir Derek said was "bloody ludicrous".

"You can't get private industry to pay for fume cupboards or for repairing laboratory benches," he said. "Privately, the minister has admitted to me that it was a cock-up, but added that if I expected him to admit that publicly I must be very naive."

Sir Derek, a former research director of GEC, said that the worst thing would be to allow Britain's glorious scientific history to affect the future. "The fact that we've had lots of Nobel prizes in the past doesn't mean we'll have any in the future. Let's have pride, by all means, but we have to get things right for the future, or we'll get an infinitely worse social and economic situation in the next 50 years."

Although he favoured a change of government, Sir Derek did not hold out much hope that it would make a big difference. "A Labour government probably couldn't spend any more on education and the universities. But the present Government is so tired I'd like to see a change."

Fungi fight winged killers

FUNGI are promising a revolution in medicine and industry, with some offering powerful new ways of controlling insects that carry deadly diseases, including Afican river blindness and malaria.

Scientists said yesterday that they had found a group of fungi that, rather like cuckoos in the bird kingdom, took over the egg-laying system of insects, sterilising the females. Dr Stephen Moss, of Portsmouth University, said that a small but growing number of agricultural pests were now being controlled by fungi without the need of environmentally harmful chemicals. One, *Beauveria bassiana*, is being used to control the Colorado potato beetle. Others were helping to control spittlebugs and aphids.

But Dr Moss told the meeting that controlling winged insects that carried deadly diseases by using contraceptive fungi was a new but tantalising field.

He said his team had found a little-studied group known as the Harpellales in the digestive systems of the larvae of a large number of winged insect species. "Some species of these fungi invade the ovarian tissues of the adult fly and may totally inhibit egg production."

Dr Moss said that other flies, including the malaria-carrying mosquito, also appeared to carry fungi that had contraceptive effects. The race was on among scientists to manufacture the fungi on an industrial scale so that the spores could be sprayed in affected areas to reduce fly numbers.

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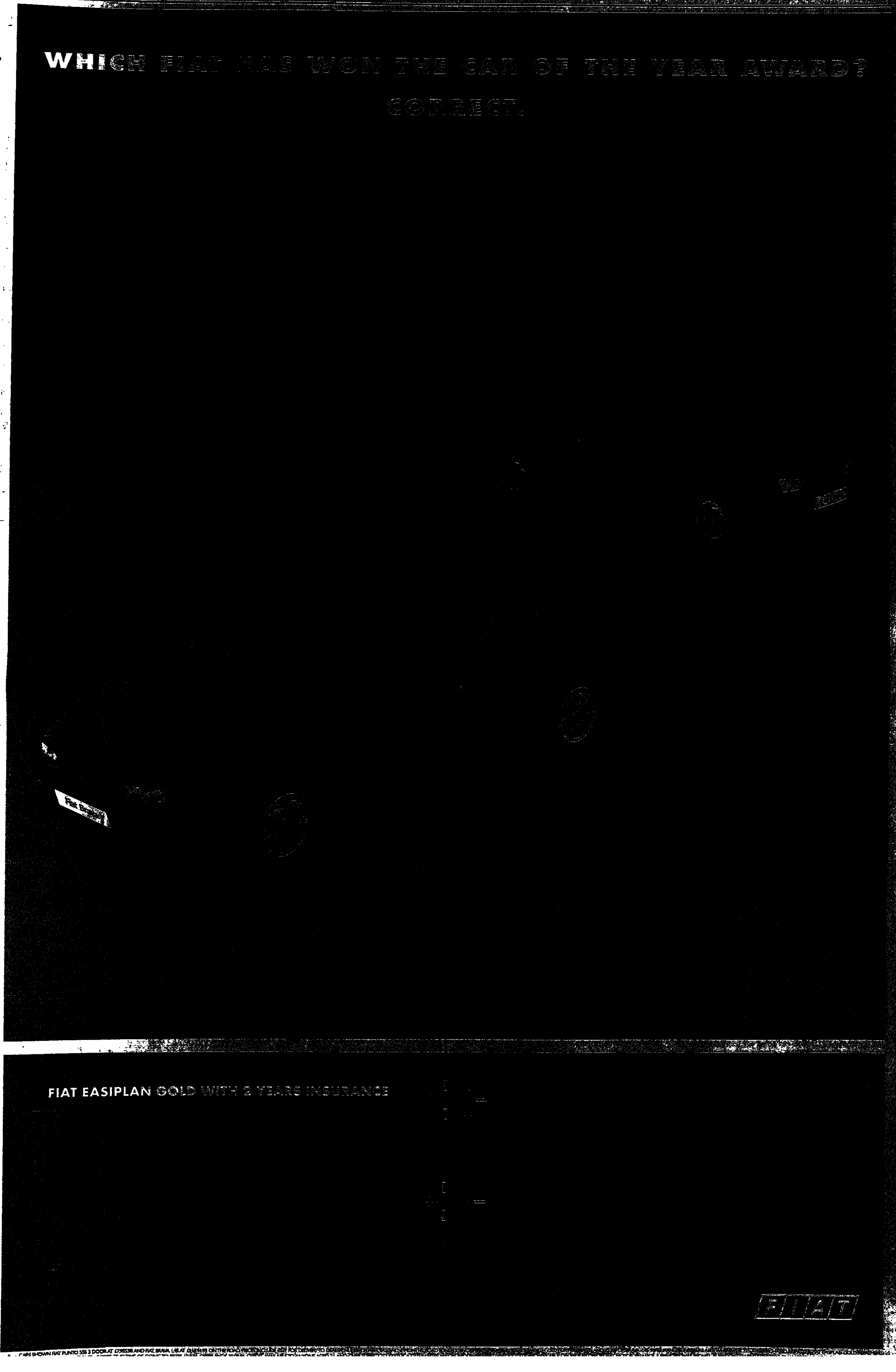
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Vaccine price stops mass campaign to beat liver disease

By Jeremy Laurance, health correspondent

A CAMPAIGN to vaccinate every child against the potentially fatal liver disease hepatitis B could be launched if makers of the vaccine reduced the price, the Government's chief scientific adviser on the infection said yesterday.

Professor Jangu Banatvala, chairman of the Health Department's advisory group on hepatitis and Professor of Clinical Virology at St Thomas's Hospital, London, was responding to a call from leading virologists and liver experts to include hepatitis B in childhood vaccination.

One in 1,000 people in Britain are estimated to be carriers of the infection. The vaccine costs £5 per shot, putting the cost of a mass campaign between £20 and £30 million. In the United States, where mass vaccination is carried out, the vaccine costs $1 (66p) per shot.

Three vaccinations are needed, the second given a month after the first and the third six months later. Many carriers do not know they are infected and the total could be up to 12 times higher than the estimate. Between 25 and 40 per cent will eventually die of cirrhosis or liver cancer but it can take 40 years to develop.

A spokesman for the manufacturers SmithKline Beecham said that bulk purchasing would make the vaccine cheaper. Professor Banatvala said the high cost of the vaccine and the relatively low level of infection in Britain compared with other countries made a mass vaccination programme difficult to justify.

"If we could get the cost down significantly, then I think we would be there. The decision would be easy if the carrier rate was very much lower than it is: mass vaccination would not be worth it. It would also be easy if it were very much higher: we would have to do it. It is more difficult when the infection rate is in the middle."

Some 75 countries, including Belgium, France and Germany, have introduced universal hepatitis B vaccination for children. However, the infection rate is twice as high in France and almost five times as high in Germany compared with Britain. The World Health Organisation recommends that all countries should integrate it into their immunisation programmes by 1997.

Professor Arie Zuckerman, Dean of the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London and chairman of the medical panel calling for universal vaccination of children, said: "Hepatitis B is a very serious yet preventable disease, which currently kills one to two million people every year worldwide. The hepatitis B virus is 100 times more infectious than HIV."

Professor Zuckerman, a member of the World Health Organisation advisory group on viral diseases, added: "Over the past ten years there have been major demographic changes within the UK and an increase in foreign travel. This means that more individuals are at risk of contracting hepatitis B."

The panel members said the consequences of hepatitis B in children are far more serious than for adults, with an estimated 25 per cent of child cases proving fatal as a result of cirrhosis, liver cancer or acute liver failure.

The Health Department said that Britain had one of the lowest rates of hepatitis B in the world. "The Government's position is that we advise immunisation for people who are considered to be at increased risk. We are looking into the WHO proposals for universal childhood vaccination, but it is still under review."

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

The *Graf Spee* burns after scuttling in full view of British ships off Montevideo. The loss of the pocket battleship infuriated Hitler

Binocular sale recalls hunt for Graf Spee

By John Shaw

WHEN Hans Langsdorff, captain of the *Admiral Graf Spee*, docked in Montevideo, his ship damaged in the Battle of the River Plate, he had no local currency to pay for essential electrical repairs.

Instead the captain gave his Zeiss binoculars to the electrician. Langsdorff had used them through the early months of the war when the pocket battleship's 11in guns sunk over 50,000 tons of British merchant shipping. And he had used them when the Royal Navy dispatched Commodore Henry Harwood in command of *HMS Exeter*, a heavy cruiser, and two light cruisers, the *Ajax* and the *Achilles*, to hunt him down. On December 13, 1939, 300 miles off Montevideo, the opponents made contact. German firepower disabled the *Exeter* but although outgunned, *Ajax* and *Achilles* continued the action. The *Graf Spee* was hit 20 times and ran for the neutral port.

Now the binoculars are to be sold at Christie's in London. They were bought from the electrician three years later by an Englishman and are expected to make £15,000 in November.

Langsdorff's dockside barter did him no good. With the Uruguayans denying him sanctuary, and with rumours of approaching British reinforcements, he put to sea. But only three miles out and in full view of the British, the *Graf Spee* blew up. The crew had left before the scuttling but Langsdorff shot himself. The demise of the *Graf Spee* infuriated Hitler and it is believed that the captain overestimated the forces against him. But with his strict code of military honour, Langsdorff could not contemplate the ignominy of surrender.

Captain Langsdorff and the binoculars he bartered

His binoculars were bought in 1943 by the father of Phyllis Oakshett de Regusci. Her family, originally from Cheam, Surrey, was running a business in Buenos Aires.

Mrs Oakshett de Regusci, 74, who lives in Montevideo but has relatives in England, said yesterday: "Langsdorff must have had some idea at the time what the end would be to give away something as important as his binoculars.

"There is a long promenade here overlooking the river and I remember everybody went out to see what was happening when the *Graf Spee* left. There was great excitement. People on this side of the river supported the Allies but the other side supported the Axis.

"There was a recognition that Langsdorff was a considerate man. He wasn't a fanatic like some of them."

IVF expert argues against age limit

By Shirley English

LORD WINSTON, the leading fertility doctor, yesterday spoke against an inflexible age limit for women seeking such treatment.

While admitting he was "not keen" to promote in-vitro fertilisation for older women, Lord Winston did not see the value in setting "cut-off points" whether at 38 or 45 years. "One of the social issues facing us today is that, as women take up career opportunities, broaden their horizons, so they leave reproduction until later in life," he said. "The sad thing is that when they ask for fertility treatment on the NHS, at say, the age of 40, they are told: 'No, you are too old.'"

Some might be readier for childbirth later than others, he said. "I don't think it is appropriate to give treatment on demand, but I do believe you have to look at each person on the merits of their case."

Lord Winston, Professor of Fertility Studies at the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, was addressing the European Congress of Perinatal Medicine, in Glasgow, during a heated debate on rights to assisted reproduction. He argued that in so far as any patient had an unconditional right to medical care from the NHS, that patient also had the right to fertility treatment. "In my view, the pain of infertility is as serious as any kind of pain, even though it might not be physical. So why single out assisted reproductive technology as the thing we would wish to penalise?"

Advances in IVF would soon make it possible to implant single embryos, reducing the risk of multiple births, which were mainly caused by other treatments such as fertility drugs, he claimed. He also argued that IVF treatment would eventually save the health service money.

But Professor Jean-Pierre Relier, a neo-natologist at a Paris hospital, argued that assisted reproductive technology was expensive and had led to a rise in the problems that he had long tried to reduce: premature delivery, infant mortality and low birth rate. The risk of multiple pregnancy and the possible need for selective abortion, which he called "ethically dubious", could also cause psychological problems. If all the babies were born, the family might be unable to cope. Such problems were "a great deal worse" than the pain of infertility, he said.

Doctors are accused of failing the overweight

By Jeremy Laurance
Health correspondent

OVERWEIGHT patients are turning to irresponsible slimming clinics because GPs are not interested in them and have not kept pace with improved treatments, experts said yesterday.

Dr Nick Finer, consultant at the Centre for Obesity Research, Luton and Dunstable Hospital, said activities at some clinics had given drug treatment of obesity a bad name: "They are just selling drugs. That is indefensible."

Dr Finer, speaking at the launch of an information centre by the Association for the Study of Obesity, said: "There are new drugs which suppress appetite but are not based on amphetamines and are not addictive. They must be part of an overall clinical strategy which includes changes to the diet and more exercise."

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Labour 'shares values of Judaism'

By Ruth Gledhill and Esther Foreman

TONY BLAIR has told Jewish leaders that the policies of the Labour Party are closely aligned to the values of the Jewish community.

The hostility between the party and a large section of the Jewish community was "behind us", the Labour leader told an audience including the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, and the Israeli ambassador, Moshe Raviv. At a dinner organised by an educational charity, he said that Labour and Anglo-Jewry had in common the "desire to do better", matched by a commitment "to the collective good".

According to a report in yesterday's *Jewish Chronicle*, he acknowledged the Jewish contribition to society and said: "Its strength is in the values of family, education and welfare."

☐ Dr Sacks, delivering a *Thought for the Day* on BBC Radio 4 to mark the Jewish New Year, paid tribute to Yitzhak Rabin, the late Prime Minister of Israel. "He shook hands with his former enemies, and began the long tough road to peace," he said. "He taught us courage in the pursuit of life."

Anglicans are united by love of good fight

By Ruth Gledhill, religion correspondent

ERIN ELDER

Cause of dissent: the Toronto Blessing, a charismatic revival dividing the Church

THE Church of England is a quarrelling, batty family which nevertheless commands the loyalty of most of its members, according to a senior Church commentator today.

Behind its Gospel of peace and love, the Church is a hotbed of disputes ranging from rows in the cathedral close to feuds between neighbouring parishes which refuse to share a cleric because they were on different sides in the Civil War.

In *O Blest Communion!*, Betty Saunders, a writer with the *Church Times* for 17 years, quotes a dean who says that there are other cathedrals as unhappy as Lincoln, which has been in turmoil since the exhibition of its Magna Carta in Australia lost £56,000. "Only," says the dean, "it hasn't leaked out." Mrs Saunders also describes how a woman pulled a gun on John Campbell, verger of Lincoln, in the vestry.

Peterborough Cathedral, traditionally a haven of Anglo-Catholicism, has been upset by the appointment of a "wildly evangelical" dean. There was trouble at Salisbury between the cathedral authorities and the wife of the then bishop over a plan for a new road through the cathedral close.

The disputes in parishes are less public but equally intense, often centring on the 1980 Alternative Service Book (ASB), which most modern clergy prefer to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

In a Devon church, Mrs Saunders reports, a visitor threw the ASB at the churchwarden and "boomed out his preferred version of the service", while the congregation continued undaunted with theirs. Nobody complained because it was known that he had put a £20 note in the collection.

In other churches, war rages between nature lovers who insist that bats in the belfry must be protected and church cleaners driven to distraction by the resulting mess.

Other congregations have sex scandals to cope with as the issue of homosexuality surfaces repeatedly in the General Synod and parishes and as clergy marriages break down at the rate of one a week, usually because of the husband's adultery.

As if all that is not enough, the charismatic revival known as the Toronto Blessing is sweeping the Church's evangelical wing, with people ripe to be "slain in the Spirit" falling violently to the floor during services, laughing uncontrollably, howling and barking.

The Established Church's hierarchy concedes that all is not running as smoothly as it might. The Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope, confesses in the book that theological training has "got into a mess". Young ordinands are given introductions to sociology and psychology but not enough of a grounding in Scriptures, he says.

Mrs Saunders points out that more people go to Church of England services over the weekend than attend football matches and millions more visit churches as tourists. "The evidence is that the number of those who come looking for something — no one is quite sure what — is growing all the time," she writes.

The majority of the million-plus regular churchgoers are more interested in their own parishes than the higher levels of the Church, she adds. "Most parishioners hardly ever think about the General Synod and its agenda. Their own agenda seems more immediate." She quotes a lifelong parishioner who said: "The Church of England is like your family, isn't it? Some of them may be batty — quite a lot of them are, actually. But it's still your family."

☐ *O Blest Communion!* (DLT £8.99)

At Your Service and Religious Events, Weekend page 15

Credo

Jewish New Year is a time to bless and celebrate life

Dr Jonathan Sacks

Six years ago, my family and I left home to take a sabbatical in Israel. We wanted a period of quiet before taking up the challenge of the Chief Rabbinate, so we went to Jerusalem in search of peace. Instead we found ourselves in the midst of the Gulf War.

Thirty-nine times during those anxious weeks the sirens sounded, and we knew a Scud missile attack was on the way. We put on our gas masks, in case the missiles contained chemical warheads. We went into our sealed room, and waited, and prayed. When the all-clear sounded, we emerged into the calm thankful to be alive.

That experience taught me what Rosh Hashanah — the Jewish New Year we celebrate today and tomorrow — is really about. It is not about war, but it is about the feeling that your life is hanging in the balance, and about the discovery, in the midst of crisis, that merely being alive is a gift of God.

The festival itself revolves around majestic themes: life and death, good and evil, repentance and forgiveness. We reaffirm our faith that human history is not "sound and fury, signifying nothing", but the arena in which we strive to create relationships built on love and trust, compassion and justice. We think about the year that has passed and how we faced its challenges. It is a moment of self-reflective honesty when we are conscious of the wrongs we have done, the times other people needed us and we were not there, the occasions when we gave in to small animosities, and we think of how we might make amends. Through these thoughts runs the sound of the *shofar*, the ram's horn we blow on these days.

Some say the *shofar* is the sound of our sadness as we remember our missed chances for doing good. Others hear it as a cry to Heaven for divine mercy. One ancient tradition sees the *shofar* as a reminder of the horn of the ram Abraham offered when God told him not to sacrifice his son Isaac, because human life is sacred. But for the past few years I have heard in the *shofar* an echo of the sirens during the Gulf War. It is a sound of warning, as if to say: do not take life for granted. Religious faith is an affirmation of trust in the face of danger. Only when we know how fragile life is can we become self-conscious about it and learn to make a blessing over it.

Often, when I read books of Jewish history, I wonder at the sheer tenacity of the people whose fate I share, its miraculous survival through the millennia. What was it that made generation after generation of Jews — so often scattered, powerless and persecuted — stay loyal to their faith, live by it and hand it on to their children as their most precious heritage?

Many great non-Jewish thinkers, among them Pascal, Nietzsche, Tolstoy and Berdyaev, were equally puzzled. What, asked Mark Twain, is the secret of Jewish immortality?

The best answer I have yet found is simply this: that Judaism is one of civilisation's most remarkable celebrations of life. Almost the whole of Jewish ritual consists in taking the simplest pleasures — eating, drinking, home, the family, study, debate, friendship and community — and investing them with sanctity; making a blessing over life itself. Never more so than on Rosh Hashanah, when we hear the siren of the ram's horn and turn to Heaven with one simple prayer: Write us in the book of life.

☐ *Dr Jonathan Sacks is the Chief Rabbi*

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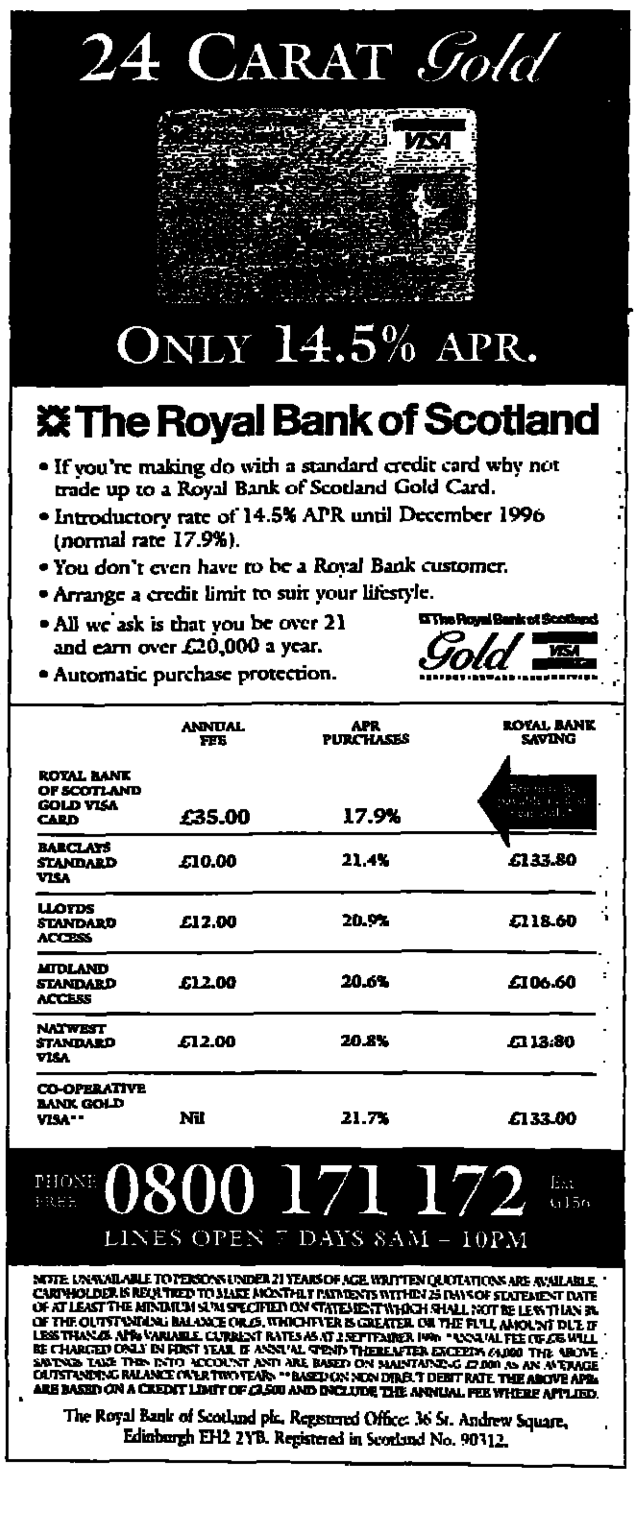

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Iraq calls off attacks on American air patrols

By Michael Theodoulou in Nicosia and Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

IRAQ said last night it would suspend attacks on American-led coalition aircraft patrolling no-fly zones in the north and south of the country from midnight after a request from Russia. The Defence Department in Washington immediately hailed the decision as "an encouraging move to reduce tension".

The statement from Baghdad was clearly aimed at undermining President Clinton's avowed intention to launch new strikes against Iraqi targets.

The promise to suspend surface-to-air missile attacks on patrolling aircraft came as Washington continued to build up its forces in the region, with the arrival of eight F117A Stealth fighters in Kuwait and a second aircraft carrier, the *USS Enterprise*, with another 75 fighter aircraft on board, due in the Gulf by tomorrow.

Quoting a spokesman for the ruling Revolutionary Command Council, the Iraqi News Agency reported: "The Revolutionary Command Council has decided today to suspend our military reaction [until further notice] to the parallel lines [no-fly zones] which are not set on any legitimate basis in international law or UN Security Council resolutions." Earlier, Iraq had hurled abuse at Washington but back-pedalled over threats to Kuwait for allowing the Stealth fighters to be based in the emirate.

The Iraqi media, which had previously reserved their invective for President Clinton, also included Bob Dole, his Republican rival, who has called for even tougher action against Iraq. *Al-Iraq* said both were like "wild bulls", ready to trample to death the Iraqi people in their "nasty race" to the White House.

However, anxious to avoid alienating the Arab world whose foreign ministers are meeting in Cairo today, Baghdad insisted it had not threatened Kuwait, despite the remark by Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, on Thursday that stationing American Stealth aircraft in Kuwait constituted an act of war against Iraq. "But that does not mean that we wanted to threaten Kuwait," Mr Aziz said yesterday.

As the eight Stealth fighters landed at al-Jabar air base in Kuwait last night after a 20-hour non-stop flight from New Mexico, the emirate's Government defended its decision to allow the Americans to bring in more firepower. The US Army also said it was sending two more Patriot anti-missile batteries with about 150 soldiers.

France offered its first sign of support for the American policy against Baghdad when it said any Iraqi attack on allied reconnaissance planes was "unacceptable". On Thursday, Paris had said it was worried about renewed tension after Iraq fired a missile at an American F16 enforcing the northern no-fly zone.

American troops on exercise in Kuwait fired artillery shells during training yesterday, as a reminder to Iraq that US ground forces, although limited in number, were also ready to protect the Gulf state.

Sergeant Michael Borelli, training with elements of the US Army First Cavalry Division about 25 miles from the Iraqi border, said: "If we are called on to assume a more serious mission, then we are ready."

Kurds facing mines peril

Geneva: The United Nations refugee agency said yesterday that it was launching an emergency operation to provide shelter materials and other relief goods to up to 40,000 Kurds from northern Iraq who have crossed into Iran. Landmines are the biggest threat faced by displaced Kurds attempting to go over the border, according to Rupert Colville, spokesman for the Geneva-based UN High Commissioner for Refugees. *(Reuter)*

AFP

A US howitzer passes an American soldier during manoeuvres yesterday in Kuwait near the Iraqi border

Enemies' blunders and fear of Iran keep Saddam alive

By Christopher Walker, Middle East Correspondent

AS THE Americans closed in on Iraq last night in anticipation of further attacks, the question being asked was why the allies had not brought about the death of President Saddam Hussein.

Diplomats and intelligence agents in Israel and the Arab world say the answer is twofold: the formidable security web around the Iraqi dictator and political and strategic constraints.

Despite the abortive attempt to mount a coup from a CIA forward base in Arbil in northern Iraq, the only scheme considered likely to have succeeded, had it not foundered in a disastrous training accident, was that being perfected by Israeli security forces in 1993. Such is Saddam's concern about his security that he has a number of doubles. Members of the ruling Revolutionary Command Council are strip-searched before meetings. Saddam maintains 250 safe houses, where staff prepare dinner every night, not knowing whether he will appear.

Iraqi exiles say Saddam is reluctant to use telephones, which may be booby-trapped or signal his location to his enemies. All his food and every bottle from which he drinks — his preferred tipple is Johnny Walker Black Label whisky — is first tasted by a close aide.

Sources close to Saddam deliberately made known the horrific punishments meted out to more than 120 mutinous officers executed last month after the latest in a long line of failed coup attempts. The spreading of the grisly information, which told of men being forced to rape each other and of slow mutilation before death, was done to increase the all-pervasive atmosphere of fear in Baghdad.

"It is the fear of the terrible fate which will await not only any plotter, but also their family members — including women, children and even babies — that is probably the greatest deterrent to more personal attacks on Saddam," said one Arab source. "Family revenge is one of his best defensive weapons and one which most Iraqis understand only too well." The reluctance of the Americans to finish off Saddam's Republican Guard during the 100-hour land operation in 1991, and their choice subsequently to mount attacks that have fallen short of any fatal blow to his regime, is dictated largely by unstated respect for the regional balance which he is able to maintain against revolutionary Iran, seen by many in the Pentagon as the more dangerous long-term threat.

American planners are aware that any dismemberment of Iraq would favour the mullahs in Tehran, whose forces could then grab the southern Shia-Muslim dominated third of the country where many oil reserves are concentrated.

As one Western commentator put it yesterday: "For Washington, President Saddam is both a bogeyman and an unwelcome necessity."

> ❛ Fear of the terrible fate which awaits plotters is the greatest deterrent ❜

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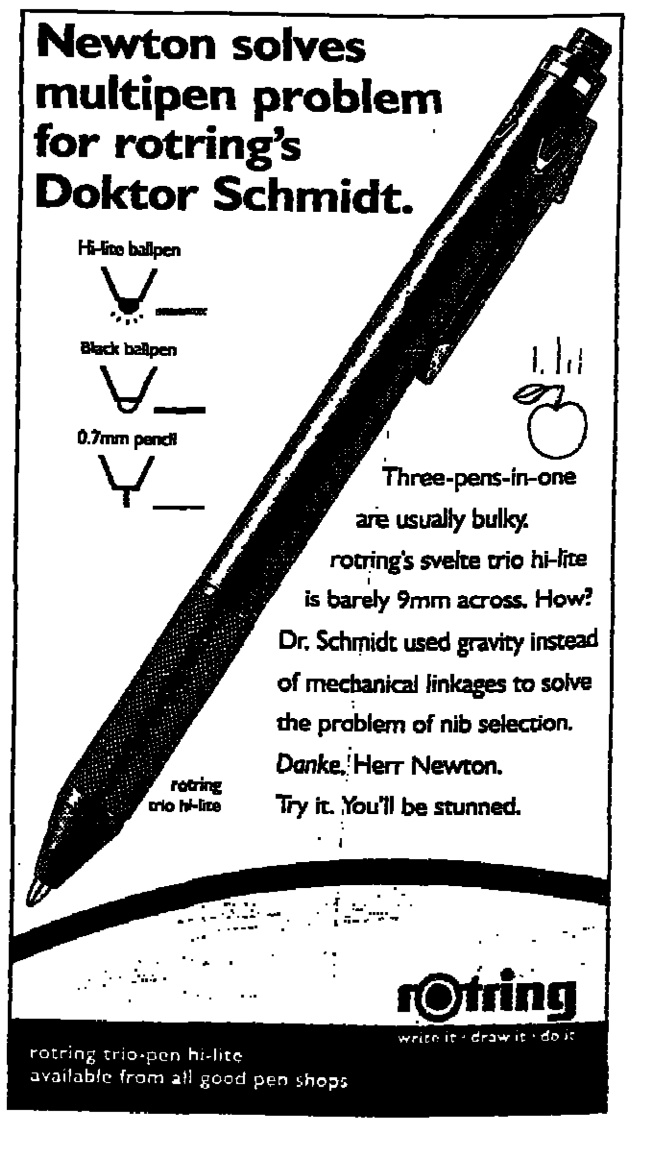

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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1996

ANDRÉ CAMARA

Smiles at half-time: Nigel Potter, finance director of Wembley, left, Claes Hultman, chairman, centre, and Alan Coppin, chief executive

London record as Wall St surges

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

SHARES in London hit another record yesterday, catapulted higher by Wall Street which surged after a set of exceptionally good American inflation figures which allayed fears of higher interest rates.

News that US consumer prices rose by only 0.1 per cent in August added to Thursday's news of a 0.1 per cent fall in underlying producer prices and underlined the fact that American inflation remains extremely subdued.

There was also evidence that the economy's momentum may be slowing from a robust second-quarter performance with news yesterday that retail sales in America only rose by a modest 0.2 per cent in August.

Taken together, yesterday's figures made the case for an aggressive rise in US interest rates far less obvious.

As recently as the beginning of last week, the markets had become convinced that the Federal Open Market Committee, which meets on September 24, will push up rates, perhaps by 0.5 per cent.

These certainties grew after Janet Yellen, a Fed governor who has the reputation of being growth oriented and dovish on inflation, gave warning that America was entering "the inflationary danger zone".

However, after this week's benign inflation figures, traders are beginning to think that the Fed may limit a rate rise to 0.25 per cent, or perhaps even postpone any monetary tightening until there are more concrete signs that inflationary pressures are building.

Lawrence Meyer, a Fed governor, told an American Economic Association conference yesterday that structural change in the economy could mean that unemployment may now be able to fall further before inflationary pressures build. Speaking at the same conference, Joseph Stiglitz, chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, said that unemployment could fall even below current levels, the lowest for seven years, without a burst of inflation. He said inflationary pressures were not as great as people feared.

The easing of fears in the markets about American interest rates powered Wall Street to new highs and 30-year Treasury bonds jumped by more than a full point, pushing yields down below the 7 per cent level.

In early afternoon trading, the Dow Jones industrial average was more than 80 points higher, having rallied by more than 50 points just after the opening in response to yesterday's statistics.

In Europe bonds surged in sympathy with events across the Atlantic and British and German stock markets closed at new record highs. The FT-SE 100 index ended 35.3 points higher at 3,967.9, nearly 75 points better on the week. Frankfurt's Dax 30 index closed 25.64 points higher at 2,595.96, very near to record highs reached during trading.

French shares also scored solid gains. There was news yesterday that French consumer prices dropped more sharply than expected in August. The annual inflation rate fell to between 1.6 and 1.7 per cent from 2.3 per cent in July, according to the official figures.

☐ The German parliament yesterday approved three key Bills that ensure most of the spending cuts Bonn is seeking for next year to hit the Maastricht Treaty's deficit criteria for entry into a single currency.

Strong first half for Wembley

By Alasdair Murray

WEMBLEY, which owns and operates Britain's most famous sporting complex, had a storming first half to the year with profits before tax reaching £7.7 million compared with a loss of £5.5 million in the same period last year.

Alan Coppin, chief executive, said the company was still optimistic about winning the battle with Manchester for £100 million of National Lottery funds to develop a new national stadium.

The company has outlined a £150 million plan that would see the old Wembley stadium replaced by a new state-of-the-art multisports stadium by the year 2000. A final decision is expected by the end of the year.

Turnover rose 24 per cent to £65 million. There is no dividend. The company said it wanted to continue improving its balance sheet.

The Wembley complex more than doubled operating profits to £7.9 million. The company said that the staging of the European Championships contributed less than £500,000 to profits.

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Brussels launches Cadbury inquiry

By Alasdair Murray

CADBURY Schweppes's £620 million sale of its UK bottling interests came under threat last night after the European Commission announced it was launching a detailed investigation into the takeover.

The Commission said in a statement that it wanted to examine the impact of the sale of Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages, which is jointly owned by Cadbury and the Coca-Cola Company, to Coca-Cola Enterprises, the US bottling company.

The blocking of the deal would be a major blow to Cadbury's expansion plans. Cadbury agreed the sale in June to improve its balance sheet after the $1.7 billion acquisition last year of Dr Pepper, the soft drinks company. It has enabled the company to halve its debt burden to about £700 million.

Cadbury described the decision last night as "unexpected". The company said it would make further comment when it had digested the document but added that it felt part of the reason for the continued investigation was that the Commission had insufficient time to gather full information over the summer.

Cadbury agreed to sell its 51 per cent stake in Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages to Coca-Cola Enterprises in June. Coca-Cola Enterprises, which is 44 per cent owned by the Coca-Cola company, also agreed to purchase the Coca-Cola company's stake.

The Commission's decision to open the second stage of a competition investigation usually implies that it has serious reservations about the consequences of a commercial deal. The Commission examines about 30 cases a year at this level, although very few deals are completely blocked.

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Anne Ashworth on Billy Connolly and the credit card wars

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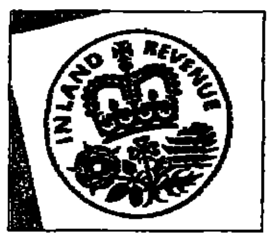

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Imro rushes out unit trust review

By George Sivell

THE City watchdog investigating three Morgan Grenfell investment funds last night rushed out a review of the unit trust industry's investments in unquoted companies, an issue at the centre of the Morgan Grenfell affair.

Imro, the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation, discovered in an investigation launched this week that only 13 per cent of unit trusts show holdings in non-approved or unquoted securities.

The total value of unquoted securities averages only 1.79 per cent of portfolios, Imro has found, and only 17 trusts reported holdings in pre-listed securities, another issue involved in the Morgan Grenfell affair.

Last night's figures were culled from 1,669 of the 1,677 authorised unit trusts. The rest are either inactive or have yet to file a manager's report.

The findings are likely to restore public confidence in the industry after the wave of redemptions by investors since the temporary Morgan Grenfell suspensions last week. However, Imro said last night that its main concern had been to establish the position of all unit trusts.

Phillip Thorpe, the Imro chief executive who has been investigating Morgan Grenfell, said: "These figures confirm that the vast majority of unit trusts are only invested in quoted securities. Even where a few trusts do hold unquoted non-approved or pre-listed securities, they represent a very small percentage of the portfolio and are well within the requirements of the regulations."

IATA seeks £1m from Midland

By Jon Ashworth

MIDLAND BANK is being sued for up to £1 million in connection with a travel agent which collapsed six years ago, causing disruption to major carriers including British Airways. Letchford Tours & Travel of Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, went into receivership in 1990, after banking hundreds of thousands of pounds in ticket receipts.

Midland acted as banker to Letchford, which traded as American Airplan. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has initiated proceedings against Midland at the High Court in London, seeking to recoup up to £1 million in receipts. It is acting on behalf of 11 airlines, including British Airways, American Airlines, South African Airways, and Virgin Atlantic. If the money is recouped from Midland, the carriers will receive payments pro rata.

Trevor Sears, senior partner of Booth & Blackwell, the London firm which acts for IATA, said proceedings had been initiated because the six-year limitation on cases was drawing near. A writ had been issued, but not yet served. He was hopeful that the situation could be resolved amicably.

Mr Sears said: "Monies paid for IATA airline tickets are trust monies, and are to be paid over to the airlines. We say the bank ought to disgorge them."

IATA is seeking the proceeds of sales in the six weeks to November 19, 1990, when receivers were appointed. Midland Bank said it would defend the proceedings vigorously.

Woolwich slides in UBS league

By Caroline Merrell

THE Woolwich Building Society, which parted with its chief executive in spectacular circumstances earlier this year, suffered the biggest fall in the influential annual UBS survey of top twenty building societies. The Woolwich, whose chief executive Peter Robinson left after

UBS *Major Players* league table. According to the report, the Woolwich, which is planning to convert to a bank next year, continued to have high costs compared with its rivals. UBS said: "On standard efficiency measures, it performed worse than its main competitors, Halifax, Abbey National and Nationwide." Biggest climbers in the survey were the

Britannia rose to sixth position, while the West Bromwich rose to ninth — both growing by buying mortgage books.

The report has provoked a row between those societies keen to remain mutual and those planning to convert. The mutual societies claim the two types of organisation cannot be compared on a like-for-like basis.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	3967.9	(+35.3)
Yield	3.92%	
FT-SE A All share	1956.76	(+14.86)
Nikkei	20842.64	(+398.71)
New York: Dow Jones	5843.70	(+71.76)*
S&P Composite	680.50	(+9.37)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 3/16%*	(5 1/2%)
Long Bond	97 1/8*	(95 21/32)
Yield	6.96%*	(7.08%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Liffe long gilt future (Dec)	107 [illegible]	(106 [illegible])

STERLING

New York: $	1.5548*	(1.5555)
London: $	1.5544	(1.5553)
DM	2.3509	(2.3518)
FFr	8.0169	(8.0246)
SFr	1.9287	(1.9224)
Yen	171.65	(171.05)
£ Index	86.2	(86.3)

DOLLAR

London: DM	1.5120*	(1.5128)
FFr	5.1575*	(5.1645)
SFr	1.2405*	(1.2381)
Yen	110.40*	(110.16)
$ Index	97.3	(97.2)

Tokyo close Yen 110.32

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Nov)	$23.45	($23.15)

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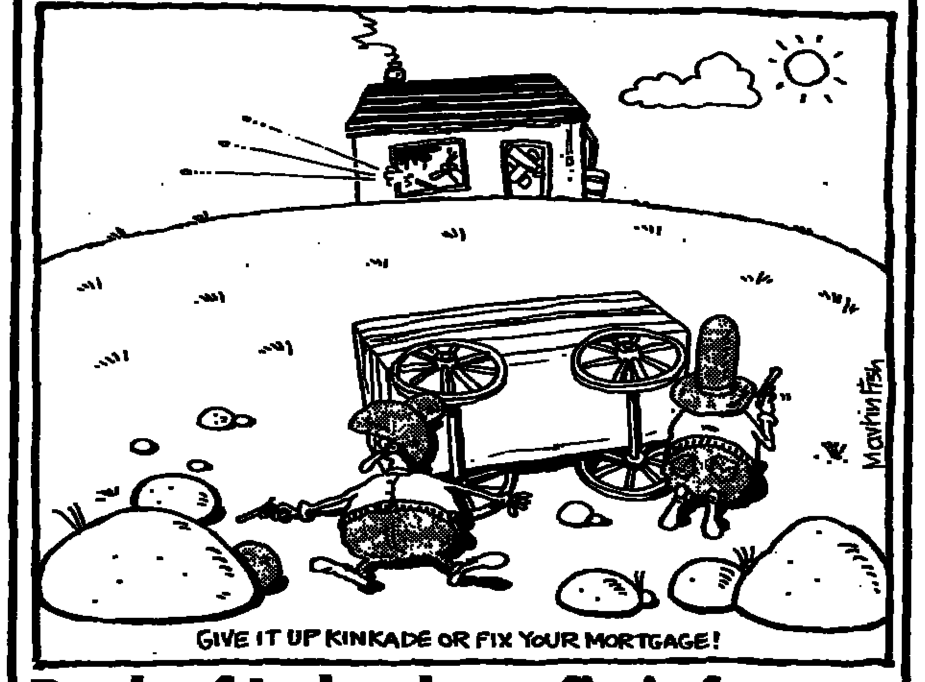

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The benefits for business of going green

EXECUTIVE VOICE

Terry Thomas

When economists talk about "green budgets" they are usually referring to predictions of what the Chancellor will have in store for us in November. But if the figures produced last month by the Office for National Statistics are taken on board, green budgets could soon have an exclusively environmental meaning.

The ONS measured the impact of economic activity on the environment and natural resources, focusing on three areas; the cost of depleting North Sea oil and gas reserves, the atmospheric emissions of various industrial sectors and the amounts spent on cleaner technology. The research showed that electricity generation in 1993 contributed 1.5 per cent of GDP but produced 25 per cent of greenhouse gases and 44 per cent of acid rain.

The initiative was broadly welcomed in principle, but opinion differed over the practicalities. Is it possible to attach a monetary value to environmental degradation? Should such statistics be incorporated within GDP calculations or published alongside them?

ONS officials concluded that, while they had taken the first steps towards linking the national accounts with environmental concerns, devising a single "green" measure of GDP required "political judgments" to be made.

Absolutely right. But this is something for the longer term. Until we have a more environmentally conscious business culture, debating the ins and outs of green accounting on such a large scale is really putting the cart before the horse.

Most companies in the UK comply with environmental legislation; some are already going beyond the requirements of the law. Generally, however, we still lag behind our competitors in the US and Scandinavia in fostering environmental reporting and encouraging sustainability.

We need to make businesses more receptive to green ideas. The way to do this is to appeal to companies' self-interest — to prove that green business is good business. As consumers seem increasingly intolerant of firms with less than spotless environmental records, this can only continue to become an even bigger factor in determining competitive advantage.

Commercial regulations should also incentivise environmentally responsible behaviour. Rather than burdening business with additional red tape, environmental legislation must prompt fresh enterprise.

One issue we might start to address is that of contaminated land. Government could initiate a process whereby property developers paid for the assessment of a contaminated site and received a certification based on its condition. Subsequent clean-up measures could be recognised and the land awarded a more favourable grade. With a line drawn under previous use of the site and future liability restricted to the last certificate issued, a developer could then sell this improved land, perhaps buoyed by capital gains or corporate tax exemptions.

As the landfill tax coming into force next month demonstrates, disposing of waste ecologically is as much a vital issue as preventing the degradation of existing natural resources. Although the tax rate — at £2 a tonne for inert waste and £7 for active waste — is perhaps not as radical as one might have hoped, if we are at all serious about tackling the problem of waste, that rate should be increased progressively each year.

At the Co-operatve Bank we have realised the importance of this issue, making it central to our four-point *Ecology Mission Statement* to promote environmental efficiency and sustainability. Aware that environmental criteria need to become part of our day-to-day decision-making, we have commissioned the National Centre for Business and Ecology to do a comprehensive environmental audit, which I'm sure will highlight areas for improvement.

As the financial suppliers of new businesses, banks have a role to play in "greening-up", though a survey of the 17 financial institutions in the FT-SE 100 found that only two produced a detailed environmental report, while a further four mentioned the environment in their annual report.

Should we be surprised by this? Probably not. But it is worrying when you reflect that managing environmental risk is becoming a significant factor in lending decisions. If banks fail to take a lead on this, can we really expect other companies to follow?

The Co-operative Bank is committed to environmental best practice, having contributed £1 million to set up the National Centre for Business and Ecology, which aims to provide an environmental service for the small and medium enterprise (SME) sector. Though vital to the UK economy, SMEs rarely have any environmental expertise and often feel the regulatory pinch. Research carried out by the bank suggests that 40-60 per cent of these firms have experienced pressures on their business on environmental matters.

It is up to politicians and business leaders to raise awareness of the benefits of "going green". The example of a group in Sweden called The Natural Step is instructive. It has secured the support of scientists and business people for a programme to reduce waste and increase resource efficiency. A similar exercise in "capacity building" would be valuable in Britain.

Government can help green business to flourish. I believe it should cost more for companies to pollute than not to pollute. And with developments like the Private Finance Initiative and compulsory competitive tendering, the huge purchasing power of central and local government can be harnessed to stimulate environmental innovation and standards of green efficiency.

In a more radical direction, proposals advanced by the Institute for Public Policy Research — shifting the burden of taxation away from labour to the use of environmental resources — offer a starting point for drafting truly green budgets. Our approach should be that of the Clinton Administration when agreeing to commitments to cut pollution by greenhouse gases in July: "Sound policies pursued in the near term will allow us to avoid the prospect of truly draconian and economically disruptive policies in the future."

Business ecology must be seen as an opportunity, not a threat. It represents the sea-change in business values since the 1980s and the way ahead for the next century. Once business culture and the tax system reflect the principles of green business, it will be much easier to calculate and appreciate "green GDP".

☐ *The author is managing director of The Co-operative Bank*

Samsung poised with rescue deal for Fokker

By Oliver August

SAMSUNG, the South Korean industrial group, is set to buy Fokker, the Dutch aircraft builder that is in receivership. The move would save 300 jobs at Shorts of Belfast, which produces wings for Fokker's planes.

The court-appointed receivers of the bankrupt Dutch planemaker said yesterday that they are locked in sales negotiations with Samsung on an exclusive basis.

Samsung Aerospace Industries has completed a business plan for Fokker and is conducting an audit of the company. The central issue in the negotiations is whether all parties concerned, including the Dutch Government, banks, receivers and Stork, the Dutch company that bought Fokker's service division, will agree to their roles as defined in the business plan.

In a brief statement, Fokker said: "The focal point of this probe is the question whether all parties involved can agree with a business plan currently being finalised by Samsung."

Samsung has had takeover talks on two earlier occasions, one before Fokker's collapse and one immediately after.

The profitable maintenance and services arms, Fokker Aviation, were sold to Stork, the engineering equipment maker, in July. Stork agreed that it would sell back these parts of Fokker if the survival of the core aircraft manufacturing unit depended on it.

Fokker was declared bankrupt on March 15 after Dasa, the German parent company, cut a cash lifeline. This resulted in the loss of 700 jobs at Shorts, which manufactures the wings for the Fokker 70 planes.

Shorts is now producing the wings for seven Fokker-70s, which will be the last planes to be produced unless a buyer can found.

On its Fokker 70 production line Shorts is employing 300 people who, the company said, will be kept on after the end of this year only if the continued production of the 70-seater can be secured.

However, some of the job losses at Shorts may be offset by an increase in the workforce in other parts of the business arising from orders for new medium-sized executive jets, for which Shorts is supplying components.

Bombardier, the parent company of Shorts, announced the first 50 orders for the new Global Express jet last month which should create 450 jobs in the next 18 months.

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Ian Thomson, left, with Denis Cassidy and Andrew Garety, finance director

Liberty's trimmer style pays off

By Clare Stewart

SHARES of Liberty, the upmarket fashion retailer, rose 15p to a new high of 435p yesterday as the group reported its first financial results since its major restructuring, and gave an upbeat report on progress.

In the six months to July 27 pre-tax profits, helped by restructuring provisions, moved ahead from £275,000 to £1.1 million. Turnover was flat at £39 million. Earnings of 2.36p a share compared with losses of 0.98p. But there is no interim dividend (1.85p a share).

In June Liberty's new management team announced the closure of all its regional shops with the loss of 350 jobs, as part of its refocusing on its flagship store in London as well as its airport shops.

Denis Cassidy, Liberty chairman, said: "Since then the pace of activity has been enormous. There has been a modest improvement in the underlying business. It is moving in the right direction and indicating the shape of profitability that will emerge."

Retail turnover rose 4 per cent to £22.1 million, with the trading loss reduced from £347,000 to £212,000. Ian Thomson, managing director of Liberty, said the flagship Regent Street store increased sales 1 per cent. More progress is expected in the second half as changes take effect. Sales in airport shops rose sharply. Liberty has opened a fourth at Heathrow and is planning to take the chain into continental Europe.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Tom Cobleigh in possible bid talks

SHARES of Tom Cobleigh, the pub retail chain, jumped more than 10 per cent after the company revealed that it was in talks that may lead to a takeover. They closed up 24p at 236½p, valuing the company at £94 million. Tom Cobleigh owns 41 pubs, mainly in the Midlands and Yorkshire. Its shares have performed strongly since the company floated, priced at 150p, last November.

The company has been at the centre of bid rumours since European Acquisition Capital, which holds a 50 per cent stake, announced earlier this summer that it wanted to sell out. Speculation over the identity of the bidder has centred on Yates Brothers Wine Lodges which owns 56 branded wine lodges across the country. Yates shares rose ½p to 366p. Bass and Rank could also be interested.

Tempus, page 28

Eastern in Czech deal

EASTERN GROUP, Hanson's UK energy company, has made its first acquisition outside Britain with the purchase of a controlling interest in Teplarny Brno, an electricity generator based in the second largest city in the Czech Republic. Eastern is acquiring a 52.8 per cent interest from PPF, the Czech investment group, and Europa Capital Management. In 1995 Teplarny earned profits of £4.3 million before tax on turnover of £36 million.

Heineken gives warning

HEINEKEN, the Dutch beer company, yesterday warned investors that the sluggish European beer market would hit full-year profits. Half-year profits rose 6 per cent to 297 million guilders (£113 million) but were below analysts expectations. Turnover increased 20 per cent to 5.92 billion guilders, boosted by recent acquisitions and a continued shift to premium beers. An unchanged dividend of 1.5 guilders is payable on September 23.

Irish output prices fall

OUTPUT prices for manufacturing industries in the Republic of Ireland dropped 0.4 per cent in August from the previous month, the Central Statistics Office in Dublin said yesterday. Year on year, there was an increase of just 0.1 per cent. The biggest changes last month were a 3.1 per cent price decline in the meat industry and a 1.8 per cent increase in instrument engineering.

BTR credit ratings

STANDARD & POOR'S, the credit rating agency, has placed its rating of BTR's commercial paper on creditwatch with negative implications. The move comes after Thursday's disclosure by BTR that its was making total provisions of £622 million and cutting the interim dividend. However, Moody's, a rival agency, confirmed its Prime-1 ratings for commercial paper of BTR Dunlop Finance Inc and BTR Finance (Guernsey) Ltd, whose obligations are guaranteed by BTR.

Plea by Brockbank

BROCKBANK Group, the Lloyd's of London agency, called for changes in regulation, capital structure and cost control in the market as it reported strong results for the syndicates it managed in 1993. Pre-tax profits for the six months to June 30 rose to £5.4 million from £3.7 million. Earnings rose to 32.5p a share from 21.5p. Direct comparisons are affected by a change in capital structure after a deal last year. The interim dividend is held at 5.32p per share, payable on September 27.

LIG buys in Portugal

LONDON International Group, which makes rubber products, has agreed a £7 million takeover of Franco Manufactura de Luvas, a privately owned Portuguese supplier of industrial gloves. Franco reported operating profits of £500,000 on £5 million sales in 1995. The deal may be subject to downward adjustment after a review of the company's net asset value and £700,000 of the purchase price will be held in escrow subject to settlement of any outstanding warranty claims.

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Warburgs replaced at HoF

By Clare Stewart

SBC WARBURG has been sacked as adviser by House of Fraser, the retail group, which has appointed Merrill Lynch in its place. It is also bringing in UBS as corporate brokers.

A spokesman denied any suggestion of a rift between the struggling department store group and Warburgs: "It is time for a change. Warburgs were appointed in 1993 before House of Fraser's float."

The group which includes Army and Navy stores and Dickins & Jones has had a bumpy ride this year. After a profit warning in January, the group said 1995 profits had halved to £14.3 million. Andrew Jennings was ousted as chief executive in March and replaced by John Coleman, former Texas Homecare chief.

The City's disenchantment is reflected in the share price. It hit a low this year of 160p, 20p below the 1994 flotation price of 180p. The shares yesterday gained 1½p to 173p. The interim results next month are expected to show an increased loss of about £6 million.

National Savings close to £3bn target for this year

By Janet Bush, economics correspondent

NATIONAL SAVINGS has contributed more than £2.6 billion to the Government in the first five months of the current financial year, compared with about £1 billion at the same stage a year ago.

Backed by more competitive rates than last year, the organisation is already close to this year's £3 billion target.

However, a National Savings spokeswoman said that the organisation needed to be well ahead this year because of the large number of savings products that are due to mature. The 36th issue of savings certificates, with an expected value of £3.28 billion, as well as Series C capital bonds, totalling £772 million, are both approaching maturity. National Savings would normally expect between 65 and 75 per cent of the money to be reinvested, but this is always uncertain.

In August gross sales of all National Savings schemes amounted to £983 million. Taking away repayments and accrued interest, the net contribution to the Government's financing needs was £393 million.

The most successful current product is Pensioner Bonds, generating a monthly income for those aged 60 or over, which brought in £183 million. Premium Bonds, which have been enjoying a renaissance, attracted £141 million.

At the end of August, the total amount invested in National Savings was nearly £59.6 billion.

Water deadline extended

THE Department of Trade and Industry has extended the deadline for an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission into a hostile bid by two French-owned water companies for Mid Kent Holdings.

SAUR and General Utilities (GU) must now wait a further ten weeks to discover the outcome of their £75 million takeover plan.

If successful, Mid Kent will be split and its water supplies and resources shared between the two companies. The MMC's decision is now expected by December 9.

The emphasis of their proposals has been the "optimising" of water supplies in the South East, which has been badly affected by drought over recent summers.

SAUR, owned by Bouygers, a French conglomerate, operates South East Water and holds a 14.5 per cent stake in Mid Kent. GU, a subsidiary of Générale des Eaux, runs Folkestone and Dover Water and owns 24.3 per cent.

Alan Paul directors 'deceived banks'

By a correspondent

THREE former directors of Alan Paul, the failed chain of hairdressing salons, were behind a £7.37 million fraud on banks in the UK and Switzerland, Liverpool Crown Court heard yesterday.

It was the company's "avaricious need for income and profit" that led to the plot to deceive UK banks, Timothy King, QC, for the prosecution, said.

Alan Moss, 47, the chairman and chief executive of Alan Paul, from Liverpool; Michael Rowland, 37, a managing director, from Willaston; and Leslie Muse, 49, the franchise director, of Parkgate, Wirral, have pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud banks and lending institutions. James McCluskey, 30, a self-employed financial adviser, of Cheshire, and Karen Walker, 32, of Liverpool, pleaded guilty to a similar conspiracy charge.

In 1984 Alan Paul, then a limited company, had no more than 11 salons, but in the 1980s it acquired 250 in-store salons from Essanelles for £8.54 million. In order to maintain momentum the company needed more funds, Mr King said, and the primary source of income and profit was made in franchising sales.

Lies were told about contributions allegedly made by franchisees, so banks effectively made 100 per cent loans that went to Alan Paul, Mr King said. The domestic banks' loaned £3.75 million, of which the alleged contribution from the applicant but never made was £930,000.

Mr Moss has also pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud those who underwrote and subscribed to a successful £5.83 share rights issue by Alan Paul in July 1991. The case continues.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.05	1.89
Austria Sch	17.56	16.08
Belgium Fr	51.45	47.15
Canada $	2.238	2.079
Cyprus Cyp£	0.758	0.703
Denmark Kr	9.64	8.84
Finland Mkk	7.68	7.03
France Fr	8.45	7.78
Germany Dm	2.51	2.30
Greece Dr	390	365
Hong Kong $	12.66	11.68
Iceland	115	95
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.32	4.67
Italy Lira	2487	2332
Japan Yen	185.40	169.40
Malta	0.602	0.547
Netherlds Gld	2.790	2.560
New Zealand $	2.38	2.18
Norway Kr	10.63	9.83
Portugal Esc	252.00	233.50
S Africa Rd	7.58	6.79
Spain Pta	205.00	192.00
Sweden Kr	11.02	10.22
Switzerland Fr	2.06	1.88
Turkey Lira	140750	132750
USA $	1.653	1.523

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Lord Sterling, of P&O, had trouble recognising his opposite number at Holland's largest shipping company. Dressed in jeans and T-shirt, and with several days growth on his chin after nearly two weeks at sea, he looked more like an itinerant shiphand than a man ready to complete a multi-million deal . . ."

Business Focus — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

A WORKING WEEK FOR: DANIEL HODSON

Airborne in the busy world of futures

Sarah Cunningham finds the head of Liffe ready for the exchange's move into the fresh territory of commodities

ADRIAN BROOKS

Daniel Hodson believes that Liffe's "open outcry" trading — with the hand-waving and bellowing of staff in colourful blazers — is not without its advantages

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

THE huge London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange will become even larger on Monday, thanks to the takeover of the London Commodities Exchange. It will be another feather in the cap for Daniel Hodson, chief executive of Liffe, and will take daily turnover at Liffe over an astonishing £150 billion per day.

For Hodson, 52, Monday will begin, much like any other working day, extremely early. If he denies being a fully fledged workaholic, he admits to coming close, setting off from his Sussex home early enough to start work by 7am.

For him, the significance of Monday's merger with the LCE is not the growth in size — which will only be marginal, as the LCE's volumes average only 2.4 per cent of those of Liffe — but the chance to expand Liffe into the virgin territory of commodities. He agrees that Liffe is not the easiest of institutions for the general public to understand. The exchange's turnover is dauntingly large and the financial instruments traded — such as euro-lira options and long gilt serial options — largely incomprehensible to anyone outside the world of finance. Moreover, the method of trading, using a combination of high-tech wizardry and the hand-waving and bellowing of open outcry, is frankly bemusing. One thing he finds irritating is that when the London stock market falls, TV news producers often use footage of Liffe's trading floor, which is more visually stimulating than rows of equities salesmen sitting in bank trading rooms at terminals.

One advantage of the merger with the LCE will be that its business, trading futures and options on such everyday commodities as cocoa and coffee, will make the public feel more comfortable with the frantic activity of the brightly blazered, mainly young traders who work in Liffe's pits.

An important part of Hodson's job, and one that he enjoys, is to persuade people that derivatives are a good thing. City scandals, notably the collapse of Barings, can make that difficult. "The public perception outside the industry itself was tarnished [by Barings], which was unfortunate," he says. It was not a big setback for Liffe as a business. "In the financial sector and the commercial sector, the press universally, and to their credit, never said using derivatives is a bad thing. This is exactly the opposite of what happened in America where there were big firms like Kodak saying we are never going to use derivatives again."

To rebuild the industry's public image, he likes to emphasise the role that derivatives play in things like pension fund management. He points out: "The reason you can get a fixed-rate mortgage is that the providers can lay off the risks at exchanges like this."

Liffe was not directly involved in the Barings debacle, but when news of it first broke, Hodson, like many others in the City, experienced a few moments of pure fear. "I was at my older daughter Susannah's confirmation," he recalls. On reading the first Sunday newspaper report, he grabbed a phone: "I was able to get hold of the chief executive of the clearing house within nanoseconds to see what the overall position in London was and he was able to reassure me that it was nothing of any significance, but that the problems were in Singapore and Japan." With hindsight, he seems to have enjoyed the excitement of the immediate aftermath of the collapse. His role was mainly acting as a communication channel between the regulators in the UK and the markets and regulators in America: "Communication was very important to prevent rumours, counter-rumours, concerns.

"I was a minor player but one of the interesting things about this job is that you are in the arena and you do have a view of what is going on in the City."

> ❛The assumption we make is EMU is going to happen❜

Before joining Liffe, Hodson, who was educated at Eton and Oxford before starting his career in banking, was finance director of Nationwide Building Society. When the Liffe job came up four years ago, he was attracted to it because "it was technical, involved managing people and trying to best optimise a very interesting and diverse group of people".

The job has proved to be as complex as he first imagined: "We have all the problems and challenges you find in a conventional business, but we are also a regulator and one of the half dozen key institutions in the City. We also have a very high international profile, as we are the second or third biggest exchange of our type in the world." The other two big exchanges are in the Chicago Board of Trade — unquestionably the largest — and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Working for an exchange that is owned and used by the members brings its own problems. "I am responsible to the board and we have a structure that is not so different from a regular business. But we have 200 shareholders who are physically here, and they take a very keen interest in every major strategic decision." Once strategy is agreed, however, the members let the board take care of running the exchange. The enormous growth in volumes traded at the exchange means that he and the board constantly look ahead: "Most organisations are about 75 per cent steady state and about 25 per cent change management. We are exactly the opposite. My colleagues and I spend the bulk of time working on change." Preparing the market for European monetary union has been particularly challenging. In March, Liffe listed two contracts, sterling and the euromark, for a delivery month after the putative start of EMU on January 1, 1999. "That was an issue which came up unanticipated and, in a relatively short amount of time, we had to come up with a policy."

The decision was that the contracts would become euro currency contracts if the euro then existed. It was not a move destined to please Euro-sceptics, but, Hodson says: "We are not paid to have political views, we are paid to make planning assumptions. The planning assumption we make is that EMU will happen, and that while sterling is more likely to be out than in, it may be in. We must be prepared for that too."

Hodson and his colleagues must also ensure that, particularly in the important bund futures and options market, Frankfurt never gets an edge. The fact that, financially, London is the European capital is key. But he is also convinced that trading by open outcry is Liffe's main advantage.

With electronics markets "it is impossible to get the sound and the feel and the smell in the same way". Also, he says: "When markets change violently in one direction or the other, electronically one side of the market tends to disappear. In an open outcry market, with 150 people standing round, you can always get a price." In the long run, electronics are bound to get better and, within a decade, he expects to see a "virtual reality" market in operation, with virtual trading pits.

Work does not consume all of Hodson's energy. "I regard myself very much as a family man. My two main interests in life are my family and my job and when I'm not here, I'm there," he says.

He has two daughters at boarding school: Susannah, 16, and Emma, 14. "Seeing them is an important part of my life," he says, but adds with a hint of regret: "The demands of the job are such that you can turn into a 100 per cent workaholic. I don't quite achieve that, but there are long hours and it is quite compulsive."

With his daughters usually away at school, he and his wife Diana live in Sussex in a small 350-year-old manor house on the South Downs. Commuting is not something he resents: "Being on the train and having an hour to myself where I can do work uninterrupted is a great bonus."

Beyond his work and family, he admits he has little time left for diversions: "It is sad in a way, but I used to sing quite a bit in choral societies. Music and opera are interests. I also have a lovely garden: I'd like to spend more time gardening." Much time with his family is spent in the holiday house in Greece that he and his wife had built. He is never away long, though, and, in spite of the occasional traumas of his job, he always returns to London with enthusiasm.

"Over the years, we have moved from Liffe taking off as a DC3 in 1982 and we're now talking about something which resembles a stretched 747A, with all the difference in technology, but we've never landed. It keeps a lot of people extremely busy."

HIDDEN ASSETS

Mobile way to keep the staff seeking inspiration

BT rings the changes by opting for the work of an emerging artist, says **Joanna Pitman**

Upwardly mobile: Big Blue draws admiring and wondering glances from British Telecom staff

British Telecom sees itself as a shining proponent of what it calls "Work Style 2000", a management style which involves putting its people in light, spacious and attractive environments, and encouraging them to talk to each other — about telephonic matters, mind you — while deriving inspiration from their surroundings.

BT employees at the company's Stockley Park offices north of Heathrow must feel rather as if they are working in the Tate Gallery. Take lunchtime in the cafeteria, for example. Unlike most corporate cafeterias, where employees sit hunched over their sandwiches, BT employees are to be found eyes raised heavenward, gazing up in wonder at a vast steel and aluminium mobile circling overhead.

A few soup-spotted ties are a small price to pay for this ingenious piece of artistic engineering, commissioned by BT through Art Contact, the art consultants based in Rickett Street, southwest London. The piece, titled *Big Blue*, is the handiwork of Simon Lofting, the young British artist and a recent graduate of the Three Dimensional Design course at Ravensbourne College, Kent, and of Middlesex University's Fine Arts degree course.

To those who haven't seen a mobile since they were last nappy-clad in a cot, *Big Blue* looks half like the skeletal wing of a prehistoric bird and half like a series of coat-hangers strung perilously together and balanced in the middle by a giant grapefruit. In fact the mobile, or "mobile sculpture" as we should call it, has far more profound and glamorous antecedents.

"It is a model of the co-operation between different elements and opposing forces," says Lofting, "allowing infinite variations of position within fixed parameters. There is unity through balance ..." This is "freeform precision engineering", as Lofting calls it. "You can't force balance, you have to find it. It's not like conquering a block of stone. Balance and equilibrium are obviously crucial to the piece. If you took away one part of the sculpture the whole thing would collapse."

Lofting was given a fairly detailed brief by British Telecom. "The piece had to reflect the green-belt location of the office and to give an impression of the positive and progressive nature of the company.

"I had an image of model teamwork and networks in my mind while I was making it. It provides a relaxed focus to a central point in the building and it is both sensitive and responsive to the environment. It reflects air currents and watching it is a bit like watching waves or trees in the breeze. As such, it has a therapeutic value."

Lofting has been fascinated by mobiles and kites for many years but has been making large-scale mobiles since 1992, having studied the works of Alexander Calder, the man credited with the invention of the mobile in the late 1930s. BT had decided that it wanted a large mobile to fill the space created by the double-storey atrium above its cafeteria.

Lofting's creation was chosen largely for its delicacy, its open "no tricks honesty" and its sensitivity to the environment. "We have a preference in BT to use the work of emerging artistic talent, rather than to invest in established names," says Malcolm Brown of BT's design unit. "We are delighted with the results. The mobile has great poise and adds a central focus for the building."

Forecast for London. Showers.

The New Arrivals Lounge at Heathrow. UNITED AIRLINES

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

London shares reach record heights again

THE London stock market stepped up its assault on the 4,000 level with a concerted effort that saw share prices close at yet another record high.

The FT-SE 100 index had opened on a firm note, reflecting a 17-point rise in the Dow Jones industrial average overnight. But the real thrust came later in the day, bringing it within 30 points of its target before finishing 35.3 points up at a record 3,967.9. That stretches the lead on the week to almost 75 points.

London was again bolstered by Wall Street where investors were quick to respond to the latest retail sales numbers. The 0.2 per cent rise in August was less than many of them had anticipated and takes away much of the pressure for a rise in US interest rates.

Last night brokers were urging clients to hang on for the ride. They said stock shortages would continue to result in share prices being driven higher. By the close of business less than 700 million shares had changed hands.

The food retailers moved against the trend, continuing to lose ground as the food price war designed to grab market share in the run-up to Christmas gathered pace. **Sainsbury**, down 4p at 382½p, has been advertising price cuts in the press this week. It follows similar moves by **Asda**, ½p lighter at 108p, and **Tesco**, down 5p at 306p, before interim figures next week.

British Aerospace continued to respond to this week's profits news with a rise of 11p at £10.62½. The engineering team at Panmure Gordon, the broker, says that even taking a conservative approach to prospects the shares are worth £11.50. This in turn drove **Rolls-Royce** 8p higher at 243p.

Panmure also likes **FKI**, unchanged at 205p, but has put **Babcock International**, 1p lighter at 76p, and **British Steel**, 2¼p steadier at 193p, on its weekly sell list.

Railtrack continues to go from strength to strength, closing 3½p dearer at another new high of 288p on turnover of nine million shares. Institutional investors have been attracted by talk of the group's hidden property assets. SBC Warburg, the broker, is said to be a buyer of the shares, which were floated in the summer at 190p.

Whitbread fell 6p to 700p as Salomon Brothers, the US securities house, urged clients to switch into **Scottish & Newcastle**, 2½p better at 680p.

The banks extended this week's gains, prompted by a number of brokers' recommendations. **Barclays** added a further 4p to 946p, **HSBC** 25p to £11.89, **LLoyds TSB** 7p to 391p, **Standard Chartered** 7½p to 703½p, and **Abbey National** 3p to 606p. Brokers have also taken a fancy to **National Westminster**, 7p better at 678p. They say the shares are the cheapest in the sector, having been left behind of late.

RMC Group, which is reporting next week, finished 16½p better at £11.81½. The figures are expected to show a sharp fall in half-year profits, which have been hit by a combination of poor weather and the recession in Europe.

Danka Business Systems jumped another 27½p to 682½p as the market continued to reflect on this week's Eastman Kodak deal.

Tomkins, the guns to buns group, rose 10p to 272p after issuing a bullish statement about current trading. Greg Hutchings, chairman, told the annual meting that order books were up on last year and that the food side of the business was holding on to its profits growth. **Bostrom**, the vehicle components group, dropped 39p to 280p after reporting that current trading conditions were proving harsher than expected. Pre-tx profits in the first six months rose from £2.5 million to £3 million.

News of a bid approach lifted **Tom Cobleigh**, the pubs operator, 24p to 236½p. John Rudyard, chairman, said the group was in talks that might lead to a bid. Last month at the annual meeting he denied bid speculation, saying the company was not in talks with anyone. The company is currently valued at £94 million.

Meanwhile, **Old English Pubs**, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market, is spending almost £3 million on five more pub restaurants and hotels. The shares rose 8p to 154p.

Matthew Clark, the drinks group, showed signs of bottoming out, ending 21½p higher at 365p. But the shares are still nursing a fall of more than 300p on the week after issuing a warning that sales had been hit by competition from "alcopops".

Stanley Leisure was boosted by a bullish statement at the annual meeting about current trading. The shares rose 4p at 495½p.

A four-fold increase in first-half profits to £1 million and growing confidence by the new management about the future lifted **Liberty** 15p to 435p in a thin market. The shares are now trading at their highest level for three years.

Brokers say the group is benefiting from cost cutting and restructuring measures taken earlier.

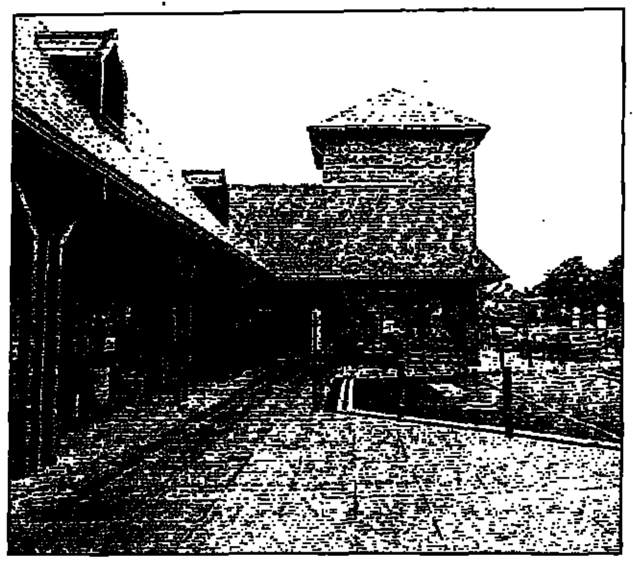
☐ **GILT-EDGED**: London outperformed other overseas bond markets, with prices at the longer end recovering from a subdued start to close with gains stretching to more than a full point.

The smaller than expected rise in US retail sales was warmly received and provided the main thrust to bond prices now that the need for a rise in American interest rates appears to have passed.

Sales of the remaining tranches of index-linked stock were supplied and further issues can be expected by the Bank of England next week.

The December series of the Long Gilt jumped £1 3/32 to finish at £107 29/32 as the number of contracts completed soared to 79,000. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 also rose £1 3/32 to £99 19/32, while at the shorter end, Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £3/8 better at £103 13/16.

☐ **NEW YORK**: The Dow Jones industrial average moved into record territory. At midday, it was up 71.76 points to 5,843.70, smashing the record 5,796.1 intra-day high set on May 23.



Tesco, which reports next week, was down 5p to 306p

British Biotech fell 10p to 192½p after reaching a 326p high this year. There is talk that tests being carried out with Glaxo Wellcome on a new anti-inflammatory drug may be halted. The shares also continue to suffer from the fallout over the Morgan Grenfell affair, whose funds hold 10.6 per cent of the company.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Matthew Clark	365p	-308p	Profits warning
Railtrack	288p	+18½p	Hidden property assets
Danka	682½p	+207½p	Eastman Kodak deal
P&O	602½p	+85½p	Container merger with Nedloyd
LucasVarity	248p	+12p	Merger/FT-SE 100 constituent
Amstrad	154p	+18p	Profits setback/better times ahead
Eurotunnel	110½p	+12½	Deal with banks close
Tom Cobleigh	236½p	+40p	Bid approach
Bostrom	280p	-40p	Trading tougher than expected

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones	5843.70 (+71.76)
S&P Composite	680.50 (+9.37)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average	20842.64 (+398.71)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng	11369.04 (+117.32)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index	566.05 (+1.15)

Sydney:

AO	2252.3 (+15.7)

Frankfurt:

DAX	2595.96 (+25.64)

Singapore:

Straits	2126.27 (+9.83)

Brussels:

General	9671.14 (+22.23)

Paris:

CAC-40	2080.37 (-15.00)

Zurich:

SKA Gen	779.20 (+8.30)

London:

FT 30	2856.8 (+23.5)
FT 100	3967.9 (+35.3)
FT-SE Mid 250	4453.3 (+21.0
FT-SE-A 350	1981.3 (+15.9)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1687.91 (+11.03)
FT A All-Share	1956.76 (+14.86)
FT Non Financials	2062.84 (+15.11)
FT Fixed Interest	113.10 (+0.17)
FT Govt Secs	93.28 (+0.39)
Bargains	40103
SEAQ Volume	686.2m
USM (Datastrm)	209.27 (+0.86)
US$	1.5543 (-0.0008)
German Mark	2.3512 (+0.0002)
Exchange Index	86.2 (Same)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2305
£:SDR	1.0762
RPI	153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	152.8 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Amer Opps U Ln	100	...
Barbican Health	64½	...
Dairy Crest Gp	182½	...
Dentmaster Hldgs	4	...
Electronic Retail	241	...
Fayrewood	45½	...
Gartland Whalley	109½	...
Grosvenor Land	13¼	+ ½
Hambros Smlr Asn C	65	...
Hoare Govett 1000 C	97½	...
Life Numbers	12	...
Life Numbers Wts	5	...
Pemberstone Wrts	7	...
Polydoc	70½	...
Schrod Em Cntrs C	375	+ 1½
Schrod Emg Cou Wts	38½	+ ¼
Schrod Emg Countrs	93¾	– ¼
Selector	68	...
St James Place Cptl	88	+ ½
Value Realisation	70½	– ½

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ronson n/p (25)	1	...
Stagecoach n/p (410)	123	...
Wyko Group n/p (123)	15	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Matthew Clark	365p (+21½p)
Bodycote	635p (+35p)
Estates Agency	380p (+20p)
Rolfe & Nolan	360p (+17½p)
Maiden	311p (+13½p)
Parity	319p (+12p)
MMT Corp	520p (+19p)
Delphi	575p (+20p)
Liberty	435p (+15p)
Wolseley	480p (+16p)
Forth Ports	620p (+20p)
MITIE Gp	385p (+18p)
Clyde Blowers	312p (+12p)
Meyer Int	401p (+12½p)
Sage Gp	461p (+13p)
TI	566½p (+12p)
Dorling Kind	531½p (+11p)
Courtaulds	489p (+10½p)
GUS	672p (+18½p)

FALLS:

Bostrom	280p (-39p)
Saltire	99p (-10p)
Bluebird Toys	154½p (-13p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

Railtrack sold Short

THE Railtrack privatisation looks like one of the most outrageous giveaways in a history of generously priced asset sales. However, this time, the Labour Party may hesitate before delivering its usual tirade about the family silver.

Sold at a partly paid 190p, complete with dire warnings from Labour's transport spokesman about taking Railtrack back into public ownership, the shares drifted for two months at the £2 level. However, at the end of July, the price perked up and has continued to rise to its current level of just under £3.

What happened? On July 25, Clare Short was sacked from her job as Shadow Transport Secretary and replaced by the more malleable Andrew Smith. Treasury officials must wonder how much of the £600 million gain to investors would have accrued to taxpayers had Ms Short not been rattling her sword. Still, there are other reasons for optimism. Market speculation about property profits is premature — a major scheme would take years to complete. The upside at Railtrack is about reducing the burden of track maintenance, which cost £1.2 billion last year. Work is contracted out to 13 businesses, subject to highly priced agreements that expire over the next three to five years. Competing track maintenance companies have every incentive to seek contract extensions in return for lower prices and Railtrack is rumoured to be enjoying some success in getting costs down.

Having been one of the highest-yielding utilities, Railtrack is now one of the more expensive with a yield of 6 per cent on the fully paid shares. The scope for reducing costs is large, but a good bit is now in the price.

Oil

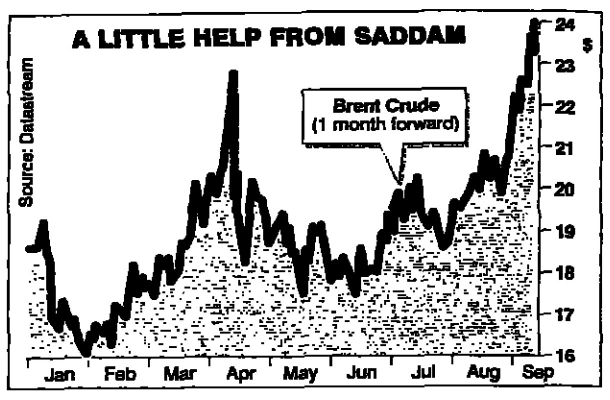
OIL companies are quietly thanking Saddam Hussein for what should be an exceptionally profitable year. Estimates of average oil prices for 1996 are now heading north of $19 per barrel compared with forecasts of $17 in January, but no one expects the party to last long.

The threat of more bombing raids puts the timing of oil-for-food sales by Iraq well into next year — not least, because the American elections rule out any possibility of Washington approving earlier oil exports, even were Saddam Hussein to wave a white flag from his bunker.

Second-guessing the timing of Iraqi exports has provoked a shortfall in inventories and a huge backwardation in oil prices. Delayed purchasing by refiners and stockholders — in the hope of lower prices later — has led to US inventories falling to the bottom of their five-year trading range. Pent-up demand for fuel oil and gasoline should keep the oil price bubbling in the short term whatever the Iraqi leader does.

Longer term the picture is different. Desperate for foreign capital, oil producing nations are under pressure to open up their energy sector; more liberal regimes will lead to higher production. The futures market is bearish looking further out: October Brent is $24 but the price of a barrel in March is $20, falling to $17 in December 1999. Add a warm winter and prices could fall quite quickly.

A LITTLE HELP FROM SADDAM



Source: Datastream

Wembley

Only 18 months ago Wembley was in danger of being relegated to the history books. Like many junior league football clubs, the company was saddled with large debts and a discredited board. That it continued to trade is due to the support of its bankers.

Since then, Wembley has made a remarkable comeback, scoring its first profitable set of results in five years. Gearing has been drastically reduced to around 32 per cent and although it declined to pay a dividend this time, the balance sheet should be healthy enough next year to permit a payout to long-suffering shareholders.

Wembley's prospects would be much improved if the company were to win the competition to build a national stadium — ensuring its status as venue for events such as the football World Cup and the Olympics. But the company insists that its future is secure even if it fails, as the stadium will remain the largest venue of its type in London and continue to attract big events.

Wembley has other sources of income and the company points out that the North London landmark contributes only about 36 per cent of total turnover. However, the stadium and the supporting complex provided closer to half of total operating profits. As always, this is a share for investors who want to believe in the Wembley dream.

Tom Cobleigh

ANYONE who bought shares in Tom Cobleigh when they were floated at 150p last November will be laughing if the company secures agreement with the mysterious suitor. However, if the buyer is not entirely blue chip, investors should insist on cash in hand or at least contemplate a discreet sale in the market.

The pubs and restaurants sector is riding high on a massive increase in investment in new venues. Cobleigh itself invested some £14 million in the year to March and over £20 million in the previous two years, building up its chain. Such high rates of investment and virtually nil depreciation of the assets acquired raises questions about the sustainability of such values. Unless profit growth accelerates, the return on investment will fall.

Nevertheless, a peaking market can still excite professionals. In July Whitbread paid a hefty £133 million for the Pelican restaurant chain. Cobleigh is currently priced at 232p, some 25 times forecast earnings, and a figure that includes over £1 per share in goodwill. Willingness to pay such a premium for goodwill suggests a company unable to build or expand its own brands. Whoever the buyer, take the money, not the shares.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Sep	975-960	Dec	1065-1063
Dec	989-987	Mar	1076-1075
Mar	1008-1007	May	1090-1086
May	1021-1020	Jul	1095-1090
Jul	1036-1034		
Sep	1052-1050		Volume: 2677

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Sep	1601-1600	May	1420-1419
Nov	1535-1534	Jul	1418-1410
Jan	1478-1477	Sep	1420-1405
Mar	1438-1435		Volume: 2853

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		May	337.0-35.8
Spot: 350.6		Aug	337.0-35.8
Oct	342.0-34.9	Oct	329.0-26.0
Dec	339.5-38.8	Dec	330.5-26.0
Mar	338.0-37.3		Volume: 2194

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on September 12

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	112.95	120.52	98.62
(+/-)	+3.43	-3.92	+0.44
Eng/Wales:	112.95	120.67	97.80
(+/-)	+3.34	-4.02	+0.04
(%)	-4.0	-5.0	+13.0
Scotland:	unq	119.61	101.92
(+/-)	-	-3.51	+2.17
(%)	-	-13.0	+3.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	23.80	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Oct)	24.20	+0.40
Brent 15 day (Nov)	23.45	+0.50
W Texas Intermediate (Oct)	25.15	+0.40
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	24.50	+0.40

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Unld	223 (n/c)	225 (n/c)
Gasoil EEC	230 (+3)	231 (+3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	115 (n/c)	117 (n/c)
Naphtha	210 (n/c)	212 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Nov	215.50-15.75	Feb	196.00 SLR
Dec	209.50-09.75	Mar	189.00 SLR
Jan	202.75-03.00		Vol: 13990

BRENT (6.00pm)

Oct	24.18-24.19	Jan	21.82 SLR
Nov	23.42 BID	Feb	21.05 BID
Dec	22.62 BID		Vol. 45320

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Sep	102.80	Sep	98.70
Nov	105.00	Nov	100.60
Jan	106.95	Jan	102.15
Mar	108.55	Mar	103.95
May	110.60	May	105.95
Volume: 276		Volume: 125	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Nov	unq	40.0
Mar		75.0
Apr	70.0	65.5
		Volume: 118

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Oct 90.00-90.50

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Sep 96	1030	1020	1021
Oct 96	1131	1120	1123
Nov 96	1205	1190	1192
Jan 97	1225	1225	1227

Vol: 227 lots Open interest: 3713

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day) Rudolf Wolff

	Cash	3mth	Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	1892.5-1893.5	1867.0-1868.0	1977350
Lead ($/tonne)	809.0-810.0	813.0-814.00	159725
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	995.50-1000.0	1025.5-1026.0	471775
Tin ($/tonne)	6055.0-6065.0	6120.0-6125.0	19980
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1404.0-1404.5	1436.5-1439.0	1725475
Nickel ($/tonne)	7493.0-7498.0	7595.0-7596.0	46425

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
Alld Dom	460	14	24	32	8	22½	28
(*464*)	500	1½	8	16½	36	50	53½
ASDA	100	9½	12½	14	0½	2	3½
(*108*)	110	3	7	8½	4	6½	7½
Boots	600	40	50	62½	1	11½	19½
(*635)	650	8½	21	33½	20	33	37
Br Airways	500	24	35½	48	4½	14½	18½
(*517½)	550	3	13	23	33½	41½	45
BP	600	52½	61½	70½	1	7½	13
[illegible]							

	Series	Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
BAA	490	19½	28	37	n	14½	18½
(*470*)	500	3	11	18	30	37½	48½
Thames W	550	16½	27	39	5	23½	29
(*554)	600	1½	8	19	46	57½	61
	Series	Nov	Feb	May	Nov	Feb	May
BTR	260	16	22½	25½	5	7½	11½
[illegible]							

	Series	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Calls Apr	Puts Sep	Puts Dec	Puts Apr
Abbey Natl	600	7½	31	44	0½	22	34
(*601½)	650	0	11½	23	48½	53½	60
Amstrad	140	13	19	—	0	6	—
(*152½)	160	1	9	—	10	16	—
Barclays	900	41	69½	87½	0½	15	33½
(*940)	950	6	39	58	15	35	56½
Blue Circ	360	21½	12½	29	1½	7	9½
[illegible]							

FT-SE INDEX

[illegible]

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 Previous open interest: 64276	Sep 96	3940.0	3985.0	3931.0	3974.0	20126
	Dec 96	3964.0	4009.0	3956.0	4000.0	5042
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3890	Sep 96				4448.0	0
	Dec 96				4483.0	0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 471889	Sep 96	94.16	94.17	94.14	94.15	10665
	Dec 96	94.18	94.22	94.17	94.21	25843
	Mar 97	94.02	94.09	94.02	94.08	24990
Three Mth Euro Yen	Mar 97	99.12	99.14	99.12	99.14	1646
	Jun 97				98.95	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 1114183	Sep 96	96.88	96.93	96.87	96.89	21707
	Dec 96	96.79	96.82	96.79	96.82	44169
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 126728	Sep 96	107-23	108-20	107-20	108-21	6986
	Dec 96	106-30	108-02	106-28	107-29	80137
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 96	121.20	121.54	121.15	121.51	3269
	Mar 97				120.51	0
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 199853	Dec 96	97.29	98.07	97.27	97.96	185890
	Mar 97	96.42	96.42	96.42	96.98	62
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 26867	Sep 96	95.72	95.80	95.72	95.77	835
	Dec 96	95.74	95.78	95.71	95.77	1313
Euro Swiss Franc Previous open interest: 87627	Sep 96	97.95	98.02	97.95	98.02	6451
	Dec 96	97.87	98.00	97.87	97.97	9364
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 64848	Dec 96	116.79	117.55	116.79	117.40	51418
	Mar 97	116.30	116.30	116.30	116.74	550

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 5¾ Finance Hse 6

Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 5¾ Low 5½ Week fixed: 5[illegible]

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth 5[illegible]. Sell: 2 mth 5[illegible]; 3 mth: 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5[illegible], close 5[illegible].

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	5.34	n/a	5.42	5.63	5.88
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £1,845m allotted: £400m: Bids: £98.625% received: 51%: Last week: £98.62% received: 85%: Avge rate: £5.5142% last wk £5.5345%. Next week: £400m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	3[illegible]-3	3[illegible]-3	[illegible]
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	4-3
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]-2	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1-par

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $382.45 Close: $382.60-383.30 High: $383.50-384.00
Low: $382.00-382.50 AM: $382.50 PM: $382.80

Krugerrand: $382.00-385.00 (£245.25-247.25)

Platinum: $387.75 (£249.20) Silver: $5.08 (£3.265) Palladium: $122.00 (£78.40)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Sept 13	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.6322-2.6422	2.6334-2.6363	[illegible]pr	2-1¾pr
Brussels	48.330-48.570	48.392-48.479	13-9pr	35-28pr
Copenhagen	9.0510-9.0890	9.0544-9.0622	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Dublin	0.9655-0.9684	0.9661-0.9676	3-1pr	4-2pr
Frankfurt	2.3496-2.3574	2.3496-2.3521	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Lisbon	240.09-241.53	240.31-240.59	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Madrid	198.26-198.98	198.34-198.49	21-31ds	61-79ds
Milan	2373.9-2381.1	2373.9-2376.6	4-6ds	15-17ds
Montreal	2.1274-2.1355	2.1274-2.1293	0.33-0.28pr	0.67-0.59pr
New York	1.5536-1.5558	1.5540-1.5548	0.047-0.027pr	0.075-0.045pr
Oslo	10.071-10.106	10.076-10.084	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	8.0140-8.0520	8.0140-8.0197	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Stockholm	10.377-10.419	10.377-10.397	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Tokyo	171.22-171.76	171.53-171.76	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	16.534-16.592	16.532-16.552	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.9226-1.9315	1.9277-1.9297	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel Premium - pr. Discount - ds.

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.2565-1.2573
Austria	10.63-10.64
Belgium (Com)	31.11-31.13
Canada	1.3690-1.3695
Denmark	5.8240-5.8275
France	5.1581-5.1591
Germany	1.5112-1.5117
Hong Kong	7.7319-7.7324
Ireland	1.6080-1.6090
Italy	1527.30-1528.30
Japan	110.39-110.44
Malaysia	2.4980-2.2990
Netherlands	1.6936-1.6941
Norway	6.4706-6.4826
Portugal	154.58-154.63
Singapore	1.4095-1.4105
Spain	127.53-127.63
Sweden	6.6725-6.6825
Switzerland	1.2395-1.2405

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5542-1.5568
Australia dollar	1.9544-1.9569
Bahrain dinar	0.5795-0.5915
Brazil real*	1.5800-1.5848
China yuan	n/a
Cyprus pound	0.7180-0.7280
Finland markka	7.0425-7.1585
Greece drachma	371.0-378.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.2070-12.0355
India rupee	55.09-56.05
Indonesia rupiah	3579.0-3647.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4615-0.4715
Malaysia ringgit	3.8839-3.8879
New Zealand dollar	2.2326-2.2357
Pakistan rupee	56.85 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.5950-5.7190
Singapore dollar	2.1915-2.1945
S Africa rand (com)	6.9520-7.0540
U A E dirham	5.6450-5.7690

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	920	Marks Spr	2,500
ASDA Gp	5,900	NatWst Bk	4,500
Abbey Ntl	1,400	Nat Grid	1,200
Allied Dom	1,200	Nat Power	4,200
Argos	1,700	Next	485
AB Foods	1,400	Orange	6,900
BAA	2,000	P & O	2,700
BAT Inds	7,000	Pearson	431
BOC	884	Pilkington	1,900
BP	3,700	PowerGen	6,200
BSkyB	841	Prudential	6,500
BTR	11,800	RMC	190
BT	14,700	RTZ	2,500
Bk of Scot	5,600	Railtrack	9,200
Barclays	2,500	Rank Org	2,100
Bass	1,600	Reckitt Col	796
Blue Circle	1,400	Redland	1,300
Boots	269	Reed Intl	969
BAe	2,200	Rentokil	2,300
BA	4,600	Reuters	3,400
Brit Gas	12,300	Rolls Royce	9,700
Brit Steel	2,300	Royal & Sun	1,900
Burmah Cstl	93	Royal Bk Scl	1,200
Burton	4,100	Safeway	1,900
Cable Wire	7,000	Sainsbury	2,500
Cadbury	2,400	Schroders	143
Carlton Cms	1,600	Scot & New	2,700
Cm Union	776	Scot Power	12,400
Courtaulds	2,600	Svrn Trent	896
Dixons	1,500	Shell Trans	2,500
EMI	1,300	Siebe	428
Enterpr Oil	567	SmKl Bch	2,200
GKN	468	Smith Nph	3,300
GRE	2,500	Smiths Inds	510
GUS	1,000	Sthern Elec	673
Gen Acc	672	Std Chartd	755
Gen Elec	2,000	TI Gp	576
Glaxo Well	3,400	Tate & Lyle	554
Granada	2,600	Tesco	6,300
Grand Met	4,900	Thames W	402
Guinness	1,400	Thorn	2,600
HSBC	1,900	Tomkins	3,900
Hanson	13,800	Unilever	3,600
ICI	1,400	Utd Utilities	238
Kingfisher	2,900	Utd News	2,000
LASMO	2,300	Vodafone	6,700
Ladbroke	4,800	Whitbread	2,100
Land Secs	817	Wlms Hld	1,500
Legal & Gn	2,300	Wolseley	2,300
Lloyds TSB	5,300	Zeneca	436

WALL STREET

	Sep 13 midday	Sep 12 close
AMP Inc	38	39
AMR Corp	79	79
ASA	39	39
AT & T	55	54
Abbott Labs	47	47
Advanced Micro	13	13
Aetna Life	69	68
Ahmanson (HF)	26	26
Air Prod & Chem	58	57
AirTouch Comm	28	28
Alberto-Culver B	42	41
Albertson's	41	41
Alcan Alumnm	31	30
Alco Standard	47	47
Allied Signal	64	64
Alum Co of Am	62	61
Amax Gold Inc	6	6
Amerada Hess	53	53
Amer Brands	42	41
Amer El Power	41	40
Amer Express	44	44
Amer Genl Corp	37	37
Amer Home Pr	62	62
Amer Intl	99	97
Amer Stores	40	40
Amer Standard	34	34
Ameritech	53	52
Amoco	70	69
Anheuser-Busch	39	77
Apple Computer	20	20
Archer Daniels	18	18
Armco	4	4
Armstrong Wrld	64	65
Asarco	25	25
Atl Richfield	124	123
Auto Data Prn	42	42
Avery Dennison	53	53
Avon Products	49	48
Baker Hughes	31	31
Baltim Gas & El	26	25
Banc One	40	39
BankAmerica	82	81
Bank of NY	30	29
Bankers Tr NY	82	80
Barnett Banks	67	66
Bausch & Lomb	34	33
Baxter Intl	45	44
Bectn Dickinsn	44	43
Bell Atlantic	58	57
Bell Industries	15	15
BellSouth	38	37
Black & Decker	41	41
Block (H&R)	26	25
Boeing	91	90
Boise Cascade	32	32
Bristol Myrs Sq	93	91
Browning Ferris	25	25
Brunswick	22	22
Burlington Nthn	82	81
CMS Energy Corp	29	29
CNA Financial	100	101
CPC Intl	70	69
CSX	51	50
Campbell Soup	75	75
Can Pacific	23	22
Carolina Pwr	35	34
Caterpillar	72	71
Central & SW	26	25
Champion Intl	46	44
Chase Manhat	79	78
Chevron Corp	61	61
Chrysler	28	27
Chubb Corp	45	45
Cigna Corp	119	118
Citicorp	88	86
Clorox	99	99
Coastal Corp	41	41
Coca Cola	52	52
Coca Cola Ent	40	40
Colgate-Palmolive	85	84
Columbia Gas	57	57
ColumbiaHCA	57	55
Compaq Comp	59	59
Comp Ass Int	59	57
Conagra	44	44
Conrail	71	71
Cons Edison	27	27
Cons Nat Gas	54	54
Cooper Inds	40	40
CoreStates	42	41
Corning Inc	39	38
Crown Cork	46	46
Dana Corp	30	29
Dayton Hudson	35	34
Deere	43	42
Delta Air Lines	68	69
Deluxe Corp	37	37
Digital Equip	41	40
Dillard Dept St	34	33
Disney (Walt)	60	60
Dominion Res	37	37
Donnelley (RR)	35	35
Dover Corp	43	43
Dow Chemical	80	80
Dow Jones	38	38
Dresser	31	30
Duke Power	47	47
Dun & Bradstreet	58	58
Du Pont	86	86
Eastman Chem	56	55

	Sep 13 midday	Sep 12 close
Eastman Kodak	73	72
Eaton Corp	58	58
Edison Intl	17	17
Emerson Elec	87	85
Engelhard Corp	22	21
Enron Corp	40	40
Entergy	26	26
Ethyl Corp	8	8
Exxon	84	85
FMC Corp	65	64
FPL Group	44	43
Federal Express	74	74
Fed Nat Mtge	34	33
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Short

5

STOCK EXCHANGE 30
A cheap way to offload windfall shares

WEEKEND MONEY

BEAUTY CONTEST 34
Societies fight it out over which looks the best

Sara McConnell asks accountants to assess the real worth of politicians' promises to cut income tax

Voters lap up the £8bn tax duel

John Major and Tony Blair locked horns on tax this week, both holding out the prospect of lower tax bills for millions of people as the election campaign got into its autumn stride.

At the same time Labour accused the Tories of welshing on previous commitments to cut tax, while denying reports that it was planning to introduce a new 50 per cent top rate for those earning £100,000 or more.

Labour says its priority is to cut the lower rate of tax from its present 20 per cent to 10 per cent in the long term, in order to reduce the tax bills of the low-paid. The Tories are committed to reducing the standard rate of tax by 4 per cent to 20 per cent. Each proposal would cost the Treasury an estimated £8 billion.

Would you be better off under Labour or the Tories if both parties actually delivered their promises? Figures calculated for *The Times* by KPMG, the chartered accountant, show that cutting the standard rate of tax to 20 per cent would give the biggest boost to the incomes of the vast majority of taxpayers, particularly lower earners. Cutting the lower rate band would have less impact.

According to KPMG, anyone with taxable income of £20,000 would immediately find themselves paying 13 per cent less — £3,247 instead of their present bill of £3,740 — if the standard rate was cut to 20p in the pound. Under Labour's plans, their bill would be just over 10 per cent lower at £3,350 (see graphic).

Those with taxable income of £40,000 would benefit less because a proportion of their income is taxed at the higher rate. But they would still gain by nearly 10 per cent under the Tory plan. Labour's cut would benefit them by slightly less than 4 per cent. On an income of £60,000, the proposed cut in the standard rate would reduce the tax bill by just under 5 per cent, while the cut in the lower rate will leave just over 2 per cent extra in the kitty. High earners on £100,000 gain the smallest advantage under both Labour and Tory proposals. Either way, the reduction in the tax bill would be less than 2 per cent, with a cut in the standard rate of tax marginally more beneficial.

Accountants argue that if Labour and the Tories are serious about cutting tax bills, the best way is to raise tax thresholds dramatically, by far more than the rate of inflation. Thresholds normally rise by roughly the rate of inflation in the annual Budget, although in each of the past four years selected bands have been frozen, effectively raising taxes slightly by the back door.

Raising the initial tax threshold significantly would take many people out of the tax net altogether. Anyone with about £30,000 of taxable income would also benefit from the raising of the threshold at which they start paying higher-rate tax.

Maurice Fitzpatrick, tax manager at Chantrey Vellacott, the chartered accountant, calculates that for the same £8 billion, the threshold at which people start paying tax could be raised by £1,200. At current levels this would mean everyone could earn at least £5,000 before paying any tax.

Mr Fitzpatrick said: "Cutting the lower rate of tax to 10 per cent may help the lowest paid but will not take a single person out of tax altogether."

Nearly a quarter of all taxpayers, 5.3 million people, pay tax only at the lower rate of 20 per cent. A further 18.2 million people are basic-rate taxpayers, while only 2.2 million pay tax at the higher rate. Simply cutting tax rates also does not remove the extra 10 per cent tax levied on all earnings between lower and upper limits (currently £61 and £455 a week) to pay for National Insurance. This weighs most heavily on those earning less than £23,000 a year because they are effectively paying an extra 10 per cent in tax on most of their salary.

But Labour will be wary of alienating middle-income voters by calling for a redistribution of National Insurance contribution costs. Its ill-fated plan to abolish the upper earnings limit on National Insurance in 1992 was instrumental in losing Labour that general election, many say.

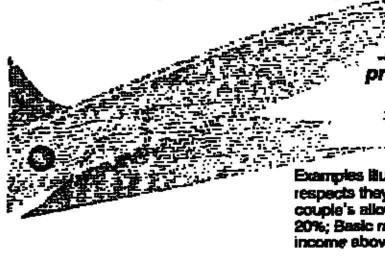
Labour says it has no plans in its manifesto to change National Insurance contributions. It also insists that it has no plans to raise the top rate of tax to 50 per cent on earnings of over £100,000 a year. But it is considering ways of reducing opportunities for the wealthy to shelter their money from tax, as an alternative to raising rates. The top rate of tax was cut in one fell swoop from 60 per cent to 40 per cent by Nigel Lawson in 1988 and any attempt to raise it would lay Labour open to accusations that it was penalising success and enterprise.

One alternative under investigation is to introduce a US-style requirement for everyone to pay a set minimum amount of tax in a regime with more limited tax breaks than the existing system. The US has had such a system since 1986.

Known as alternative minimum tax (AMT), it operates alongside the mainstream tax regime, with its own rules. Individuals on the AMT regime pay a flat rate of 26 per cent (28 per cent on $175,000 or above taxable income). It is up to taxpayers to assess whether they must file returns under AMT. Detailed statutes set out who comes under the AMT regime. Anyone ignoring them faces a $100,000 fine and/or up to five years in jail. But Charles Merriman, partner in charge of Ernst & Young's US and international desk, gives warning that the system "doesn't add anything significant other than a burden".

AMT is complex to understand and administer, says Mr Merriman, and introducing a similar system here would compound any difficulties taxpayers face working out their tax under the new self-assessment regime starting in 1997. The Inland Revenue has already been forced to simplify its proposals dramatically.

CUTTING INTO YOUR TAX BILL



	Single person	£20,000	£40,000	£60,000	£100,000
Current tax burden	Current tax burden	£3,740	£10,258	£18,258	£34,258
Labour promise	Tax burden if lower rate band reduced from 20% to 10%	£3,350	£9,868	£17,868	£33,868
	Saving	£390	£390	£390	£390
servative promise	Tax burden if basic rate band reduced from 24% to 20%	£3,247	£9,394	£17,394	£33,394
	Saving	£493	£864	£864	£864

Examples illustrate impact of 10% and 20% tax rates on taxpayers earning £20k - £100k. In all other respects they incorporate the following allowances and tax bands: Personal allowance £3,765, Married couple's allowance £1,790 at 15% = £268.50; Lower rate band of tax on income up to £3,900 currently 20%; Basic rate band of tax on income from £3,901-£25,500 currently 24%, Higher rate band of tax on income above £25,500 currently 40%

TAX HISTORY

1985-86: Basic-rate tax starts at 30 per cent with earnings over £41,200 taxed at 60 per cent. There are six tax bands.
1986-87: Basic-rate tax falls to 29 per cent.
1987-88: Basic-rate tax falls another 2p. The 60 per cent rate is scrapped.
1988-89: Nigel Lawson delights higher-rate taxpayers and enrages Labour by cutting the top rate of tax to 40 per cent. Basic-rate tax falls to 25 per cent and the five bands become two.
1992-93: Norman Lamont complicates things by introducing a third lower band of 20 per cent. This 20 per cent band is presented as the first move towards a 20p standard rate.

Into action on your finances

Tax cuts should be the signal for people to review their finances and use the system to get their full entitlements.

Married couples, those whose taxable income — after allowances — is hovering around the higher-rate tax band (currently £25,500) and those putting money into pensions should be among the first to act, said Elspeth May, a partner at KPMG.

A cut in the standard rate of tax to 20 per cent would open a 20 per cent difference between the standard and higher rate of tax (assuming no change here). The gap between the higher and the lower rate would be 30 per cent. Married couples, where one partner is a higher-rate taxpayer and the other pays standard rate or lower-rate tax should put some of their investments in the name of the latter to minimise tax.

Couples have been able to do this since 1991. Higher-rate taxpayers should have already signed over investments to their lower-earning spouses after last year's Budget which cut tax on most investment income to 20 per cent for standard and lower-rate taxpayers. More tax cuts should provide further incentives, but some are reluctant to sign over their investments.

Taxpayers whose income after allowances just tips them into the higher rate band should act to bring their income down below the threshold, said Ms May. Failing to do this will mean all taxable income above the higher-rate threshold, including building society and bank interest, is taxed at 40 per cent.

One way of reducing taxable income is to increase pension contributions, to bring total income below the higher-rate threshold. The downside is that part or all of the tax relief on the pension contribution will also be paid at standard, not higher rate.

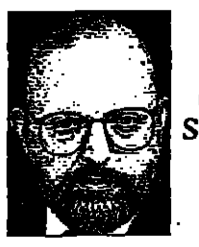
The amount you can contribute to your pension depends on whether you have a company or personal pension. Those with a company pensions can contribute 15 per cent of earnings, while those with personal pensions can contribute between 17.5 per cent and 40 per cent.

SARA McCONNELL

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Turning off shareholders

PERSONAL INVESTOR



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

Tony Blair has noticed that seven million trade unionists are a minority, to judge by the stage-managed rows with the TUC this week. You might think he would still woo the half of union members who did not vote Labour in 1992. If Mr Blair is that keen to cosy up to Middle England, though, he should note that there are at least two million more private shareholders than unionists, and act accordingly.

The overwhelming majority of us own shares in privatised utilities, long the focus of Labour's vitriol. And that does not count all those whose pensions depend on them. Utility shareholders are not a voting bloc, any more than union members or the many who feature on both lists. Investors are also consumers, whose economic interest always outweighs that of savers on a crude cash calculus. As shareholders, however, many of these eight million plus people are fed up. Most fed up by far are the two biggest groups: the 2.3 million of us with shares in British Telecom and the 1.7 million individual investors in British Gas. Our political favours are up for grabs.

Those who have held British Gas shares since privatisation a decade ago — nearly all the private shareholders — have had a raw deal. They would have nearly twice as much money if they had invested in the share average. Those who bought BT shares in the third tranche have done worst of all. In each case, the losses of the past three years have little to do with trading, everything to do with regulatory change that has needed to be backed specifically by government action. Once these utilities were sold to investors, to establish a stable business background and a fair balance of interests, policy was hijacked by economic theorists, investors were demonised as impersonal *rentiers* and regulation was stuck into maximum improbability drive. If Tories have lost any call on the favours of the eight million, Labour seems to have little interest in them. It is still determined to mount a levy across the board, not just on electricity and water companies, and is wedded to strengthening the "consumer" interest.

British Gas is the pre-election test. As this week's half-year figures again show, the company is suffering heavily from the take-or-pay contracts signed before the Government changed the rules and took away much of its market.

Early results of domestic competition show that most customers were satisfied with British Gas and rightly have no truck with what they fear may be fly-by-night foreign competitors. The South West, where water bills have soared while gas and power bills have fallen, was an odd place to pilot competition. BG shows every sign of being able to compete with its pricing hands tied behind its back, not least with new services like the Goldfish credit card. Each customer lost to British Gas is still a little triumph for the regulator, a bigger loss for shareholders on those take-or-pay contracts taken to meet statutory obligations. In such circumstances, the huge revenue cuts demanded from Transco, the pipeline system that accounts for most of BG's assets, the bulk of employees and the dividend, are a socialistic attempt to destroy shareholders' interests before BG splits in self-defence next spring. BG shares now yield 9.4 per cent on a shaky dividend. The regulator has managed to raise the cost of equity capital by a third, making a private enterprise operation unviable for customers in the long term.

The company can — and must — appeal to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. But it knows there is a powerful bureaucratic solidarity between the MMC and regulators. Only a change in the political climate is likely to embolden the MMC to take a radically more sensible line than Ofgas. Maybe Labour or the Liberal Democrats will attack Ofgas for being unfair to investors as well as endangering jobs and service standards. Maybe the Tories will at last stand up for the millions they have served so badly. Maybe no one wants our votes.

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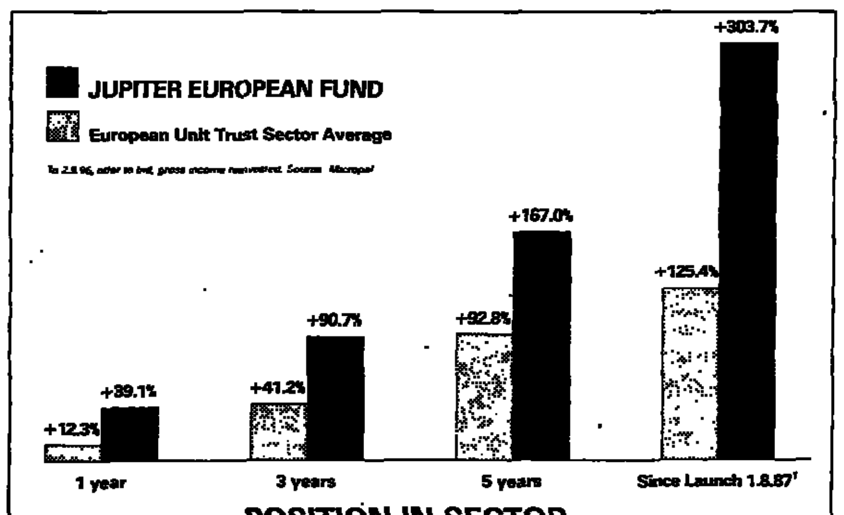

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Caroline Merrell considers a cheap method of disposing of small parcels of windfall shares

Share exchange is no robbery

AMERICAN EMBASSY

Exchanges have come a long way since William Penn's treaty with the native peoples acquired a large chunk of North America for very little — a deal that has rankled ever since

Thousands of former members of the National & Provincial Building Society must be pondering what to do with the Abbey National shares that they have received as part of the takeover windfall.

The minimum number of shares some borrowers and savers would have received is 89 — a strange number by anyone's reckoning.

Even if you have not benefited from the Abbey National windfall, you may be sitting on a small number of shares with which you are not sure what to do.

An option that you could consider is one of the huge number of share-exchange schemes now available. These will allow you to use the proceeds from the sale of the shares to invest in a collective scheme such as an investment or unit trust.

Here Weekend Money answers the basic questions about how these share-exchange schemes operate.

Q What are share-exchange schemes?

A Share-exchange schemes allow you to sell unwanted shares at a discount to a fund manager in exchange for taking an investment in a unit trust or investment trust. Most United Kingdom fund managers offer them; however, all have slightly different terms, conditions and costs.

Q Which shares can be used in share-exchange schemes?

A Most schemes will accept the shares from the FT-SE 100 companies. Some, such as the scheme operated by M&G, will have a list of 100 shares which they will exchange for nothing. In M&G's case, the shares exchanged will be put into its own range of collective investments. Other schemes, such as that offered by Mercury for its unit trusts and its investment trusts, will simply sell your shares and reinvest the proceeds.

Abbey National shares are eligible for the Mercury and the M&G schemes at the moment, although M&G changes its list of shares every six months. If you have some shares which are not on the current M&G list, then you can still exchange your equities for an investment in an M&G fund, but there will be a charge.

Q Is it possible to exchange any number of shares?

A There is rarely a minimum number of shares for exchange, provided the amount is topped up to meet the minimum investment requirements of the unit trust or investment trust. For example, the Mercury scheme has a minimum investment of £1,000, which means that if you benefited from the minimum £500 worth of Abbey National shares after the National & Provincial takeover, you would have had to find a further £500, before being able to take advantage of the share-exchange scheme.

Q What are the costs of using a share-exchange scheme?

A The costs vary from scheme to scheme. Many, from time to time, will run special offers. For example, Flemings, the investment house, normally offers a share-exchange scheme which costs £12.50. Until the end of September, Fleming Investment Trust Services is offering to exchange shares free of charge in any United Kingdom-listed company for a share plan investment in any of the range of Fleming investment trusts.

Mercury will charge £15 to exchange shares from any of the top 350 listed companies with shares in any of its investment trusts. Investors will then be charged a further 1 per cent for investment in the trusts.

The share-exchange scheme for its range of unit trusts is currently free, and operates on all the shares of listed companies.

Simply selling the shares through an execution-only broker such as Sharelink and investing in to a unit trust or investment trust, will entail paying the broker commission, which will depend on the size of the sale, as well as paying the costs of buying into the unit trust or investment trust.

Q So what sort of price do you actually get?

A Some share-exchange schemes will pay the bid price for the shares, while other schemes will give you the offer price.

The bid price will include the commission that is charged by the broker, while the offer price is free of commission. M&G, for example, will pay the offer price for those shares on its list of 100, while Mercury will pay the bid price.

Q What are the other advantages of using a share-exchange scheme?

A If you sell your shares to buy a unit trust or an investment trust, you will have to wait until the trade is settled before you can reinvest the money.

This can take up to five days. If you invest through a share-exchange scheme, the fund manager will reinvest the proceeds straight away.

Guaranteed returns to tempt the once-bitten

The promise of guaranteed returns has become even more alluring in the wake of the losses suffered by the thousands of investors in Morgan Grenfell's and Kleinwort Benson's European funds.

Ever eager to spot a marketing opportunity, and hoping to mop up some of the £250 million of disaffected investors' money which has left Morgan Grenfell, two companies this week decided to launch personal equity plans which will guarantee the return of capital. Barclays and Marks & Spencer unveiled five-year guaranteed Peps with potential returns based on rises in the UK stock market, while HSBC relaunched its Pep, which also offers a similer type of guarantee. These plans are aimed to appeal to risk-averse investors who are willing to gamble the interest they would have earned on the money by leaving it in a building society. As interest rates are only about 3 per cent at the moment, the index only has to grow by a small amount annually to outstrip building society returns. Micropal says £1,000 invested in the FT-SE 100 index five years ago would now be worth £1,536, while £1,000 in a higher-rate building society account would be worth £1,208.

Legal & General already has a five-year guaranteed stock market product, which it launched in 1993. It now has £87 million under management in the fund from 18,000 investors. Its analysis of the performance of the stock market versus building society investments over 19 five-year periods shows that the market outperformed in 18 cases.

Barclays was first off the blocks this week with its Pep. It guarantees that if in five years the value of the investment is less than the original amount invested, then it will make up the difference. The money is invested in the shares of the UK's top 100 companies.

As the product is a Pep, income is reinvested tax-free and any capital gains are free from tax. The Pep carries a 5 per cent initial charge, which means if you choose to invest the full year's Pep allowance of £6,000 only £5,700 will actually be invested. The fund also carries a 1 per cent annual management charge, a £72 annual fee and minimum investment is £1,000, while the maximum sum is £6,000.

Investors who choose to withdraw some or part of their investment before the end of the five years will be subject to a withdrawal fee. This starts at 5 per cent in the first year of investment and drops to 1 per cent in year five. Grant Philips, the managing director of Barclays Unicorn, said: "The public's confidence in unit trusts may have been knocked by recent developments in the industry. This only increases our resolve to continue to introduce prudent products which encourage the confidence of savers." Marks & Spencer's Guaranteed Capital Plan runs along the same lines. It, however, carries no initial charge, but a higher Pep plan charge of 1.76 per cent of the value of the fund. It has no redemption penalties for those who cash-in early. It also has a much higher minimum investment of £3,000. The offer on it is open until the end of October.

HSBC's Pep, the PEP Plus II, will offer investors all the capital growth of the index over the five-year period, plus a 25 per cent bonus of the growth achieved. If the market falls, the product will aim to pay back the capital, but in the strictest definition of the word, this is not guaranteed. It explains that it may not be able to return money to investors. It says: "In our opinion, this risk is minimal but it is drawn to your attention."

CAROLINE MERRELL

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Acrimony among the acronyms

Investors in the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Trust (Kepit) are being assailed once more with pages of claim and counter-claim from Kepit and its unwelcome bidder, TR European Growth Trust (Treg). In this war of acronym against acronym, nothing is abbreviated. In the interest of small investors, both sides should now clarify their proposals, making clear when a statement is a pledge, and when it is just an estimate.

For example, in its latest sally, Treg says that it should be able to realise 97.3p per share for investors. However, if the trust emerges triumphant and executes its planned sale of the whole Kepit portfolio, the unpredictable nature of the stock market means that no one can exactly anticipate the proceeds.

Meanwhile, with opinion growing that the Kepit plan (see page 33) may now win the day, investors in Treg should be aware of their unwilling involvement in these noisy proceedings. Henderson Touche Remnant, Treg's management company, has not agreed to indemnify Treg for the costs of an unsuccessful bid. Treg, or rather its shareholders, will foot the seven-figure bill for the battle.

Since Henderson Touche Remnant would have gained from victory, by acquiring £500 million worth of extra funds to manage, it should also share in the costs of failure.

Better for whom?

The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the City watchdog that guards over financial advisers and insurance companies, has this week proposed the streamlining of some investor protection procedures. The body claims that customers are being deterred from making financial arrangments by the methods used to elicit details about their circumstances. Some simplification of the regulations would be welcome. But more is afoot here than cutting down paperwork.

In this instance, the PIA is speaking less on behalf of investors than its members who, it seems, are worried that safeguards are costing them business. Note, for example, that the PIA suggests that the term "best advice", a central tenet of the current system, could be replaced with a "spectrum" of recommendations, including "not unsuitable" and "most suitable". What a selling opportunity that would provide.

The events at Morgan Grenfell, where one fund manager was apparently allowed to follow his fancy, unfettered by the rules, have spread alarm among investors. The PIA should now be concerned with their welfare. Its members can take care of themselves.

Selective cuts

The Bristol & West Building Society is also busy with some streamlining, supposedly in the interests of its members (see page 32). But its savers have already guessed that the alterations being made to the society's Select account are to the advantage of the Bristol & West, not the customer. Holders are to be deprived of certain benefits which made the Select a useful combination of current and savings account. B&W customers must be hoping that these petty restrictions are not a foretaste of what life will be like next year when the society becomes a subsidiary of the Bank of Ireland.

Tipping the scales

Billy Connolly, in flowing robes, is now to be seen on our TV screens, revealing that the secret of life is the goldfish. The baffling pronouncements of the Glaswegian comedian may achieve what plain-speaking American card companies have, so far, failed to do. That is to highlight the exorbitant rates of interest that the British are prepared to pay for their credit cards.

To date, Barclaycard, whose Annual Percentage Rate, or true rate, is 22.30 per cent, has not suffered unduly at the hands of American invaders, offering UK cards with rates of 14.9 per cent, or thereabouts.

The Goldfish credit card is a joint venture between British Gas and HFC. Goldfish's APR is 18.9 per cent, the rate also chosen by the new Which? card, and thus perhaps seen by British Gas as politically correct. This rate may not be low enough to shake the unswerving loyalty of Barclaycard's eight million customers. However, the new 7.9 per rate Co-op card could cause Barclaycard holders to ask why their bank makes borrowing three times as expensive. Barclays should respond not by spending more on advertisements, starring that other funny man Rowan Atkinson, but by reducing its rate.

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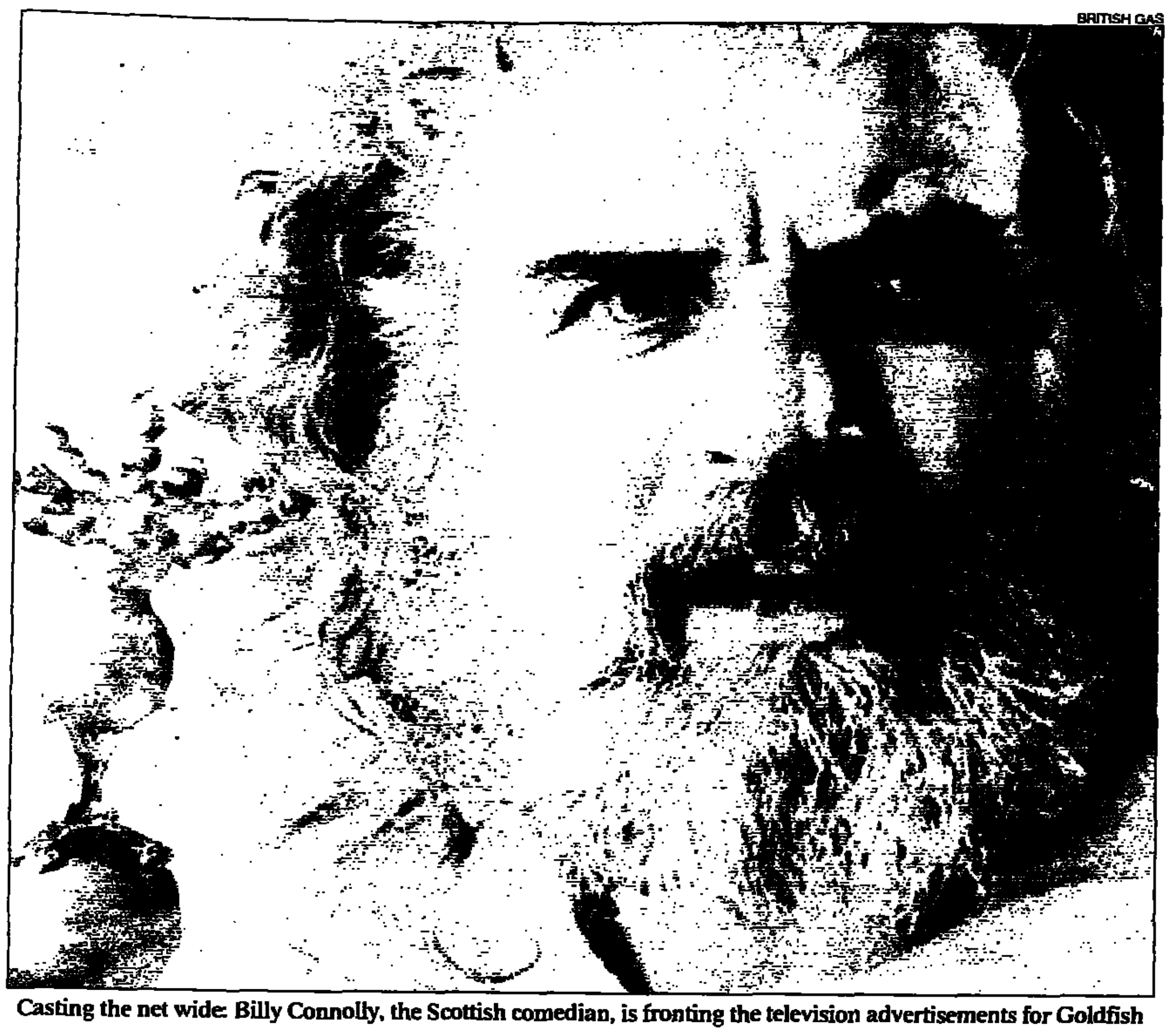
Caroline Merrell reports the latest additions to the plastic pack



Casting the net wide: Billy Connolly, the Scottish comedian, is fronting the television advertisements for Goldfish

British Gas takes up fishing for customers

Goldfish, stars of the fairground, *A Fish Called Wanda* and Shirley Conran's *Lace*, suddenly have a new role in life: they can be used for shopping, paying for meals and for reducing the gas bill.

They are not some new form of coinage, but instead are the symbol of a credit card from a joint venture company between British Gas and HFC Bank. Although goldfish are scaly and cold-blooded, according to the agency Wolff Olins, which came up with the brand, the great British public is charmed by them.

Mike Parsons, managing director of Goldbrand, the joint venture company, said: "In Eastern culture, the Goldfish symbolises wealth and prosperity." The card does have a slightly lower annual interest rate at 18.9 per cent than many other credit cards, which on average offer interest rates of about 22 per cent.

However, the Goldfish is a long way from offering the lowest rate on the market. RBS Advanta and the People's Bank of Connecticut offer cards with rates of 15.6 per cent and 14.4 per cent respectively. The launch of the Goldfish sparked the immediate release of a new credit card from the Co-op with a market-beating rate of 7.9 per cent.

This rate will be held until April next year, when it rises to 10.9 per cent. This still represents the cheapest rate on the market.

Although the rate on the Goldfish is not the lowest on the market, it claims that most people will qualify for the new card, unlike most low interest cards where you need a higher than average credit rating. Its launch is being backed by a £10 million advertising campaign fronted by Billy Connolly, the Scottish comedian: a factor which will certainly help Goldbrand to attain its aim of having one million cardholders within an 18-month period. It is possible to transfer balances from other credit cards.

The Goldfish, like cards from Barclays and NatWest, comes with a loyalty point system. Cardholders are awarded one point for every £1 spent: 100 points will give £1 off the gas bill. The company is also hoping to extend the loyalty system to give discounts on the household shopping bill. The Profiles loyalty scheme run by Barclaycard will give cardholders one point for every £10 spent. Two hundred points will give £100 off a Ford car, while 600 points will buy a Philips toaster.

NatWest, on the other hand, offers a loyalty scheme based on Air Miles. Every £20 spent on a NatWest credit card will give one Air Mile: 450 Air Miles are equivalent to a return trip to Paris.

The launch of two lowish interest credit cards in one week will increase the pressure on the big credit card issuers to decrease their rates for the millions of cardholders who spend an estimated £41 billion a year on their credit cards.

According to Goldbrand, using its card in comparison with using a card with a 22 per cent APR and a £12 annual fee, such as the standard Access card offered by Lloyds, will save £37.16 per year. The new company also claims that the card could be better value-for-money than the 14.4 per cent People's Bank of Connecticut card, when the Goldfish loyalty programme is taken into account. Without the loyalty scheme, the US card is about £15 a year cheaper than the Goldfish. With the loyalty scheme, the Goldfish is about £4 a year cheaper. The figures assume an interest-bearing balance of £400 a month, and an average annual spend of £1,940.

The Co-op Card can offer even bigger savings than the British Gas card. For example, the cost of borrowing £1,000 over six months at 7.9 per cent is about £50 cheaper than using a Goldfish.

The Credit Card Research Group believes that any war among issuers will be fought over the interest rate, rather than over any individual loyalty scheme. It points out that the relevance of interest rates may be overplayed because the majority of credit card holders managed to settle their debts.

A credit card war will be fought on interest rates, not loyalty schemes

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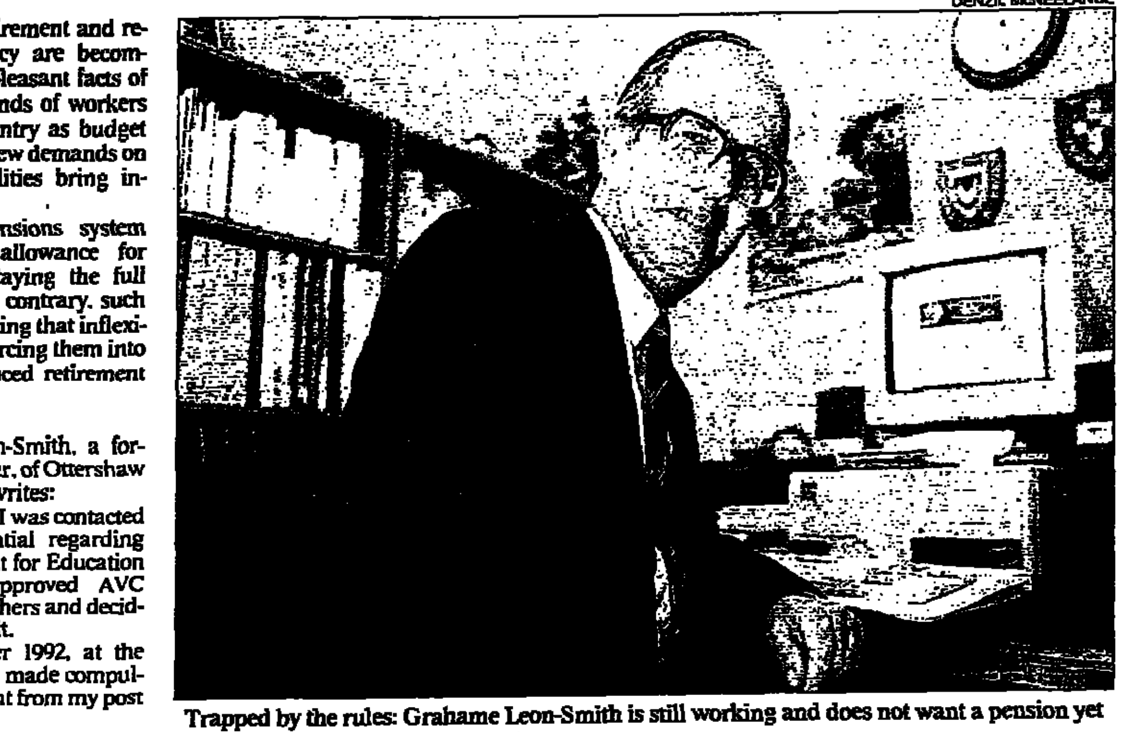
Sara McConnell on why a pension must be taken ten years early

Annuity anomaly

DENZIL McNEELANCE



Trapped by the rules: Grahame Leon-Smith is still working and does not want a pension yet

Early retirement and redundancy are becoming unpleasant facts of life for thousands of workers across the country as budget cuts bite and new demands on time and facilities bring increased stress.

But the pensions system makes little allowance for anyone not staying the full course. On the contrary, such people are finding that inflexible rules are forcing them into accepting reduced retirement income.

Grahame Leon-Smith, a former headmaster, of Ottershaw Park, Surrey, writes:

"Early in 1992, I was contacted by the Prudential regarding the Department for Education and Science-approved AVC scheme for teachers and decided to invest in it.

In September 1992, at the age of 51, I was made compulsorily redundant from my post as headmaster.

I was unsure of my future and therefore asked the Prudential to place the accumulated fund on a high-interest deposit account until I could decide precisely what to do with it.

In October 1994 the Prudential wrote asking me to buy an annuity. I was not prepared to do so because at the age of 53 it was impossible for me to purchase an annuity which would provide me with a reasonable pension.

I wrote to the Teachers Pensions Agency [which now approves the Prudential AVC] pointing out that at no time was I informed by the Prudential or the Education Department that I would have to buy an annuity within six months if I had to retire early, nor can I find any reference to this in the documentation. I am currently working as an educational consultant and do not wish to retire.

I do not need the annuity at this time and I wish to purchase it when I reach my normal retirement age of 65 (or earlier if I so decide). I understood the rules had been changed to give policyholders the right to decide when to buy an annuity and I would want to take advantage of this."

Weekend Money replies:

"The problem with the pensions system is that it assumes you will work until you are 65 when, as you say, you will be able to buy a big enough annuity for a reasonable retirement income. Unfortunately any deviation from this life pattern can be severely financially punished.

AVCs used to top-up an employer's pension scheme are deemed to be part of the main pension, though in your case the AVC is managed by the Pru on behalf of the TPA. If you retire early for any reason and take your main pension, as you have, you must take your AVC fund as well. This means buying an annuity within six months.

Your main teacher's pension is based on your final salary. As part of your redundancy deal, your employer boosted your pension to the level it would have been at if you had continued working ten more years. Your employer, not you, bears the extra cost of this. But your AVC pension is based on contributions and operates under different rules.

The Pru is sympathetic but Steve Bee, head of pensions, said: 'You are obliged to take the annuity. Revenue rules are quite clear. This should have been explained to you at the time.' The Pru is investigating your complaint that you were not told about the annuity. Mr Bee argues, however, that you were given a generous deal by your employer. 'What you have lost on the AVC you would have more than gained on the main pension.'

The only way to have avoided the problem would have been to have deferred your main pension, and thus your AVC.

As you rightly say, new rules introduced last year allow retired people to put off buying an annuity until they can get a reasonable rate or until they are 75. But these rules do not apply to AVCs."

More instant-access agony piled on by the Bristol & West

SOCIETY WATCH

Account holders are becoming hostages to fortune. Building societies want only savers, not spenders. Hence the trend of offering a relatively attractive rate for so called instant-access accounts — but with harsh penalties for withdrawals.

Customers are angry at the changes to Bristol & West's instant-access Select Account. From October 1 there will a charge for withdrawals in accounts with a balance below £500. No new direct debit and standing orders will be allowed on accounts under £2,000. Customers with balances below £2,000 will no longer get cheque books, and the bill payment facility ends.

The society reasons, in a letter to accountholders, that reducing the Select Account facilities will "make more time available to improve our service to you" since it will now be able to concentrate on "the three main areas of mortgages, savings and investments".

It is a classic case of rationalisation that goes with takeovers and conversions. From next summer B&W will be owned by the Bank of Ireland, though it will retain a separate identity.

"We would like people to use Select as a savings account rather than a day-to-day transaction account. We have never positioned it as a current account," said B&W. However, if you want to save rather than spend, you could get a much better rate of interest elsewhere, even from other B&W accounts. But if you want to move from the Select Account into a competitor's higher-paying account, you lose your merger bonus. "Clearly the Bristol & West has no interest in retaining customer loyalty," said *Times* reader Paul Holmer. "This is short-sighted cost-cutting."

Other building societies have come up with deterrents for withdrawals from instant-access accounts. Alliance & Leicester's Prime Deposit allows two withdrawals per month and then charges 60p for each cash withdrawal and £1 for each cheque if the balance falls below £1,000 — the charges were imposed five months after the launch of the product. The Bank of Scotland's Savings similarly comes with a £3 a month fee if the balance goes below £50. Other better-paying cheque accounts simply insist on a higher opening — and therefore running — balance. The new Leeds & Holbeck Premier Cheque has a £1,500 minimum balance. The Halifax Asset Reserve demands a £5,000 balance.

The Woolwich this week has come up with a postal account that gives a whole new meaning to 60 days' notice. The Postal 60 Account pays competitive rates of interest — from 5 per cent gross on the minimum £2,500 to 6.5 per cent on £100,000 or over. The "60" bit would normally indicate the notice period for such an account. But with this product it means loss of interest. You can have one withdrawal a year instantly between £500 and £10,000.

Any further withdrawals lose 60 days' interest. "This is not designed as an instant-access account but as a long-term, postal savings account," said the Woolwich. The Lambeth has also redefined 30 days' notice. You would expect to give 30 days' notice to withdraw cash. But with the Postal 30 you lose half the interest during the notice period.

The providers say you can get your money if you really need it and they can only offer high rates if they lock savers in. The message is clear — always read the small print on withdrawals. If you think you will want to get at your cash, be aware of the penalties.

Banks too are rethinking the current or instant-access account. Last week we revealed how Save Direct, the Co-operative Bank's new instant-access account, only allows you to make a withdrawal with 30 days' interest lost. And next month Barclays launches its Additions current account which has "a range of value-added services" such as an overdraft facility for £60 a year.

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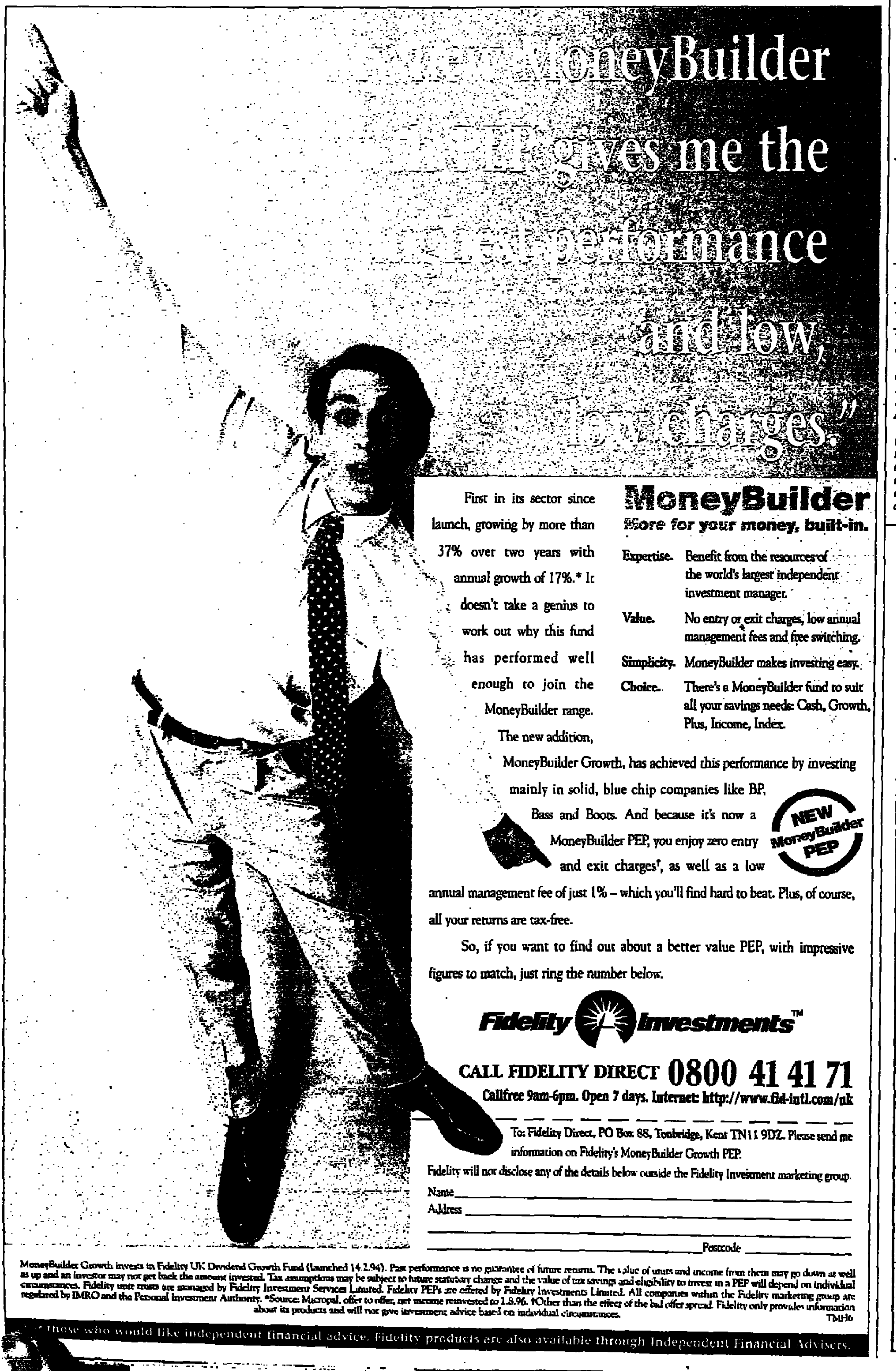

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Anne Ashworth assesses latest moves in the saga of the European trust investors

Kleinwort trust squares up again with Touche Remnant

CLIFFORD HARPER

Kepit is once more daggers drawn with Treg. Those familiar with these unlovely acronyms will know that there has been a resumption in the hostilities between the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) and its unwelcome bidder Touche Remnant European Growth trust (Treg).

This week, the Kepit board has unveiled a joint venture with M&G, the unit trust group, whereby poor-performing Kepit would be broken up. The immediate result was harsh words from the Henderson Touche Remnant's TG European Growth trust (Treg) which is offering £500 million for Kepit. We explain the developments.

Q What are the terms of the Kepit deal?

A Shareholders will be able to swap Kepit holdings for either units in a new Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation trust, or in M&G Europe & General, an existing unit trust. Investors who want cash can switch into Kleinwort's Money Market trust and then immediately liquidate their holdings. A combination of all three is possible.

Shane Ross, Kepit chairman, said the board chose the M&G deal because it was the most attractive. But some cynics have pointed out the past relationship between Kleinwort and M&G. Kleinwort once held a big M&G stake.

Others saw the arrangement as a face-saving operation for Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, Kepit's manager, enabling it to continue to earn management fees from the new European Privatisation unit trust, and so compensating for the loss of the large income it has always derived from Kepit.

Q How does this arrangement compare with the Touche Remnant bid and the proposals from other fund managers?

A Treg proposes to sell all Kepit's holdings, returning the cash to investors by the end of November.

It claims that it made preparations for the sale which would enable it to pay 97.3p per share. However, this figure is only an estimate. Investors can also opt for shares in Treg, whose performance puts M&G Europe & General in the shade.

The Kepit board says Treg's manoeuvre would be expensive, and that the market would mark down prices in European shares in advance of the sell-off, reducing the payout to shareholders.

Q Tell me more about the other offers.

A About ten fund management groups, including Barings, Flemings and Guinness Flight have also submitted plans for Kepit's future. Provided they give their consent, their schemes will be disclosed to Kepit shareholders later this months, accompanying the full details of the KBIM and M&G deal.

Guinness Flight has said this week that if shareholders accept Kepit's proposal, it will give investors taking cash an opportunity to invest in its Global Privatisation trust.

Q Who is offering the best deal, Kepit or Treg?

A Analysts calculate Kepit is putting about £10 million more on the table than Treg. They point out that Kepit will be giving 100 per cent of asset value, unlike Treg which will offer 99.5 per cent of asset value. Kepit can pay more because KBIM and M&G are making a contribution to the costs of the break-up. KBIM is also waiving its right to a termination fee for loss of fund under management.

Some of Kepit's portfolio, perhaps as much as third, would be liquidated under the terms of the KBIM and M&G deal. However, since the market cannot anticipate which shares would be sold, it could not mark them down before the sale.

Scottish Value Trust, a large shareholder, is well-satisfied with the Kepit and M&G deal. The trust should make £2.5 million from its 3.7 per cent Kepit stake, bought in March, before the beginning of hostilities.

The intentions of Kepit's largest shareholder remain unclear. SBC Warburg, the securities house, has now accumulated a 9.07 per cent stake, presumably only with the aim of making a profit, but this has not been confirmed.

Yesterday NatWest Stockbrokers recommended that Kepit investors should sell now, as most investors are likely to take the cash option in the KBIM and M&G deal.

This means that an unexpectedly high portion of shares would need to be sold off, reducing prices and depressing the return for all investors.

AEA sell-off seeks the sophisticated investor

The final privatisation under the current Parliament will make its debut this month, when AEA Technology, part of the Atomic Energy Authority until recently, is floated.

The privatisation is expected to be one of the more difficult to get off the ground, because there is no similar company on the market with which to compare it and recent improvements in the company's balance sheet are attributed to cost-cutting, not sales growth. In addition, anything connected with nuclear power is difficult to sell.

What does the company do?

It is described as a science and engineering group. Its activities include decommissioning nuclear reactors, developing better batteries for portable telephones and monitoring air quality. It helped BAA with the risk assessment for the Heathrow Express tunnel and helped to improve the exhaust systems for Subaru's World Rally Championship team. About half of its business is nuclear-related.

What will the shares cost?

The offer price is expected to range from 240p to 270p per share valuing the company at £192 to £216 million.

What about the dividend?

The gross notional net dividend is 7.5p. This is what the directors would have recommended for the year to March 31 if the float had taken place at the start of that year.

What are the deadlines?

Application forms are due on Tuesday, September 24. The final price will be announced next day. Dealings will start on September 26.

Will the shares be as popular as Railtrack?

Unlike Railtrack, and the other privatisations that were over-subscribed, only about 10 per cent of AEA is being set aside for private investors. Instead of embarking on an intensive marketing campaign to attract the ordinary punter, AEA is going after the more "sophisticated" investor. In other words, it is seeking to be attractive to investors who already have a portfolio of shares and are confident buyers and sellers.

The bulk of the AEA shares — about 80 per cent — will be placed with instutuions. Another 10 per cent has been earmarked for the company's employees. Employees will be given £160 of free shares and will get extra free shares if they invest in the company.

How attractive is the offer?

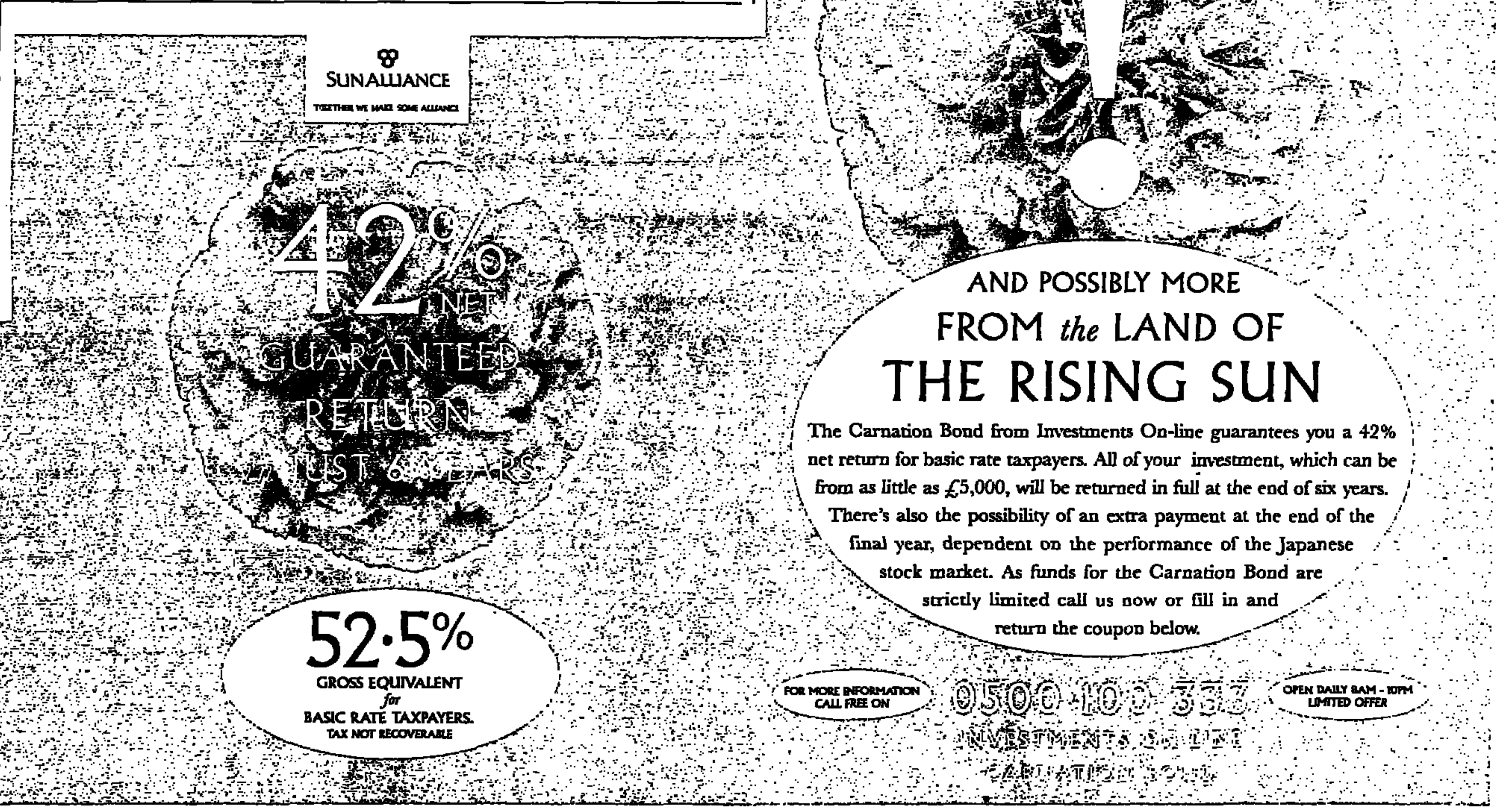
Andrew Couch, head of Guinness Flight's Privatisation Fund notes that AEA has big growth potential but with 21 operating companies in niche businesses, it is difficult to predict how it will fare.

"On the plus side, about 46 per cent of its sales are non-nuclear related, and there is scope to improve the performance of AEA's consultancy business. On the down side, about 54 per cent of the business is exposed to nuclear technology of some sort, and government contracts, in particular, are in decline. AEA is in a position where non-nuclear revenue needs to outstrip nuclear, but they are in the right areas: about 24 per cent of revenues come from decommissioning. There are no big nuclear liability issues like British Energy." He thinks the pricing is about right.

How do I subscribe?

Instead of a public offering, the shares are being sold via intermediaries. Among private investors, the target audience is the affluent clients of private brokers. If you want to take part in the launch of AEA, you should contact a broker. You can also get a prospectus from J Henry Schroder on 0171 382-6000 or Cazenove, tel: 0171 588-2828.

KAREN ZAGOR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Legal & General
Investment Management

Caroline Merrell on a dispute over rating lenders' performances

Many people consider beauty contests are now a touch passé; not so the building societies, which all want to be number one

Time to change the high society league?

The last year has been a tumultuous one for the building society movement. Like so many skittles, five of the top 20 societies have fallen for the attractions of flotation on the stock market.

The trend towards demutualisation has been matched by an equal but opposite pull in the direction of greater mutuality, with many societies firmly pinning their colours to the mast by enhancing mortgage and savings rates for their members.

Some of this upheaval is reflected in the annual survey of the top 20 building societies by UBS, the broker. The report analyses the performance of the top societies using key factors such as profitability, capital strength, market share, arrears, efficiency and growth. It then comes up with a league table of creditworthiness.

In the past, the table has been used by individuals and institutions as a guide to where to find a home for their money. Now, those on the mutual side of the fence claim that the league table is nonsense because those societies keen to give back more profits to their members will look weaker than those societies hoping to increase their profits to enhance shareholder returns. The biggest critic of the methods used in the report is Brian Davis, the chief executive of Nationwide.

He says: "It really is a nonsense, comparing societies poised to become a plc against those who are to remain mutual. It is like comparing fruit with acorns." Such is the Nationwide's disaffection with UBS that it refused to supply it with a mission statement for this year.

National & Provincial, now part of the Abbey National, managed to jump 11 places up the table, mainly by improving its arrears position, and by increasing the profit margin on savings.

Two of the other biggest climbers in this year's league were the Britannia and West Bromwich building societies. Both jumped six places. Britannia was able to achieve its increase in profitability by decreasing arrears and by buying up the Lloyds Bowmaker mortgage portfolio. Next year, the society expects a 40 per cent fall in profits because of the package of mutual benefits it is offering members. The West Bromwich Building Society, believed to be ripe for takeover, managed to increase its profitability through the purchase of the AXA Equity & Law mortgage book.

The biggest faller was the Woolwich Building Society, which plans to convert to a bank next year. According to the report, the Woolwich continued to have a high cost base. .

TOP 20 SOCIETIES

Society	1995	1994
Halifax	1	1=
Northern Rock	2	3
Yorkshire	3	4
Coventry	4	1=
National & Prov	5	16
Britannia	6	12=
Bradford & Bing	7	11
Abbey National	8	-
West Bromwich	9	15
Birmingham Mid	10	7
Alliance & Leic	11	8
Chelsea	12	9=
Portman	13	14
Nationwide	14	18
Woolwich	15	9=
Derbyshire	16	12=
Leeds & Holbeck	17	17
Skipton	18	19
Nor & Peterboro	19	-
Bristol & West	20	20

Source: UBS Global Research

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5

Threat to taxless pay

Karen Zagor on how the Budget may shrink some profit-related salary benefits

If you are one of the three million or more people who receive a portion of income free of tax, thanks to a profit-related pay scheme, the Budget to be revealed in November carries the threat of reduced earnings.

Profit-related pay has long been considered a vulnerable tax perk. In theory, it encourages employees to contribute to a company's profitability by receiving a portion of salary tax-free, related to the company's profits. Under the current rules, employees can receive up to £4,000, or 20 per cent of salary, free of income tax. This can bring in an extra £1,600 a year for a 40 per cent taxpayer, equivalent to a £2,667 gross pay rise.

Although profit-related pay schemes have been around since the mid-Eighties, they have only become popular recently. Philip Fisher of accountants Chantrey Vellacott says: "They took off suddenly years partly because, in 1991, the benefits improved and partly because when the recession came along and employers were strapped for cash, they could give pay rises through profit-related pay. Companies could also give a smaller pay rise and take some for themselves."

But the schemes have been criticised for providing a tax haven for companies rather than a benefit for employees. This is because some companies are using the schemes to cut their own costs. There is little to prevent a company from introducing a profit-related pay scheme and reducing employee salaries by the amount of the tax-savings, so the company saves on its payroll and the employees take home no more, nor less, than they did before.

Labour has said it would clamp down on the profit-related pay loopholes, and the Liberal Democrats have said they could save £600 million by stamping out related tax-abuses. For employees who now count on their profit-related pay tax relief as part of the annual household budget, the good news is that the scheme may change, but is unlikely to be axed entirely.

Until recently, it was widely expected that the Government would abolish tax relief on profit-related pay altogether, but with more people than ever now participating in a such pay schemes, total abolition is no longer considered politically expedient.

Instead, it is now widely expected that the Chancellor will abolish tax relief on profit-related pay at least for the top earners, bringing down their relief to the basic rate band. According to some estimates, this would bring in an extra £1 billion a year to the Treasury, but Mr Fisher predicts it would bring in no more than £100 million.

Mr Fisher believes that the cost of profit-related pay to the Treasury is relatively low in comparison with the damage of restricting it. He says: "It must be tempting for the Treasury to consider abolishing profit-related pay, either to reduce the budget deficit or in order to help to finance a general cut in direct taxation. However, profit-related pay is now so widespread that the political cost of abolishing it should ensure its retention."

Treasurers called to account

National Savings this week launched a new savings product exclusively for charities and other non-profit-making organisations. But the terms indicate that it is aimed at charities with money rather than the local Scout group.

The Treasurer's Account is open to charities, public bodies, educational establishments, religious bodies, trade unions, friendly societies, clubs and societies. The minimum investment at £10,000 is unusually high for both NS and a charity/club account. Such accounts can normally be opened with £1, occasionally £5,000. Similarly, the Treasurer's Account has a high maximum balance at £2 million.

The account is not for day-to-day transactions — withdrawals require 30 days' notice, and instant access is at a cost of 30 days' interest. NS argues that charities and clubs can plan for expenditure and therefore do not require instant access.

The interest rates are variable: 5 per cent gross for balances of £10,000-£25,000, 5.25 per cent for £25,000-£100,000 and 5.5 per cent for more than £100,000. Interest is paid gross, but is taxable so should be declared.

"These rates are competitive but not the best," says Christine Bayliss, of *MoneyFacts*. "The security of National Savings will be the most attractive feature for charities."

The Coventry Building Society's Charities account pays 5.15 per cent gross on all balances from £1 to £50,000. The Skipton's High Street Notice pays 6 per cent gross on balances of more than £50,000 and 6.3 per cent on those of more than £100,000.

Other institutions that offer funds specifically for registered charities also offer better rates on most tiers. The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England and CafCash Ltd (for the Charities Aid Foundation) both pay 5.45 per cent gross on balances from £1, while the COIF Charity Fund currently pays 5.4 per cent. All give instant access.

Charities and clubs could until 1989 take out an NS Investment Account. There are still 50,000 charities with the account which have to decide whether to transfer into the Treasurer's Account. The original charities account was withdrawn, says NS, because the passbook was considered inconvenient. So the new account will operate like a postal account, with a dedicated telephone line for inquiries and transactions. Statements will also be provided for each month there is a transaction.

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1740/038

Beware the expense of switching out of funds

Gavin Lumsden takes a fresh look at what has been the safe route into the stock market

Peter Young invested more than a quarter of his funds' portfolios in unquoted stocks

There was a small piece of comfort this weekend for the 90,000 investors in the three Morgan Grenfell European unit trusts, now the centre of a City scandal, calling into question the current system of investor protection. Deutsche Bank, Morgan Grenfell's parent, pledged that it would buy back units and shares in the trust if the £300 million of cash in the portfolios were to run out.

This allayed fears that the pace of redemptions, which have now reached £250 million, would soon exhaust the cash. Any investors wanting to sell will be assured of receiving their money.

However, the advice remains that investors should stay put to ensure that they receive compensation. James Higgins of Chamberlain De Broe, the financial advisers, gave warning that investors should be wary of advice to switch their funds. He said: "Remember that your adviser will be picking up another 3 per cent in commission by transferring you out of Morgan Grenfell and into a new trust."

The three Morgan Grenfell European funds, Europa, European Growth and European Capital Growth, were suspended last week when it was disclosed that Peter Young, their fund manager, had invested more than a quarter of their portfolios in unquoted stocks. Trading has now resumed, as the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (Imro), continues its investigation into the affair, in an attempt to quantify how much compensation is due to investors. However, the concerns have begun to raise questions about how units trusts, long marketed as the safe route into the stock market, really operate.

The unit prices of Morgan Grenfell's European Growth Trust and Europa Fund fell nearly 4 per cent when they reopened for trading last Thursday. How could this be when Deutsche Bank had pumped £180 million into the funds earlier in the week?

Whilst the money Deutsche provided was reassuring for investors, it effectively only protected the funds from their massive exposure to small unknown unquoted companies — more than three times Imro's 10 per cent limit in the case of MG's European Growth Fund.

But it did nothing for their legitimate quoted holdings, which were immediately marked down by market makers, who knew the company would be a forced seller if investors continued to flood out of the funds.

The fall in the funds' price was around eight times greater than European funds by other companies. But surely investors are to be compensated? Imro has appointed forensic accountants at Deloitte & Touche to examine how the funds have been valued.

However, Imro has restricted the investigation to the unquoted investments.

What will the accountants do?

They will re-evaluate every unquoted stock held in the funds since April and recalculate each day's unit prices. If, as seems likely, Peter Young overvalued the unquoted stocks, units in his funds would have been priced too high. New investors would have paid a high offer price and would have received fewer units than they were due. (Imro is now considering whether they should be compensated with more units or cash). However, an uninflated bid price would have benefited investors leaving the funds. Thankfully there is no suggestion that they will have to pay the money back.

What are offers and bids?

Unit trusts currently use a dual pricing structure based on offer and bid prices. These are the prices at which investors buy and sell units in the fund. The difference between the two is called the "spread". Naturally the offer price is higher than the bid price, otherwise fund managers would not make any money. However, the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the top City watchdog which oversees Imro, has laid down strict rules as to how the spread is calculated. To calculate the offer price fund managers first work out the value of the securities held in their funds.

This includes any income such as interest and dividends accrued from these holdings. To this they add the dealing costs, such as stamp duty and brokerage. They then divide this by the number of units in issue. Finally they add their own initial charge and round the lot to four significant figures. The bid price is calculated as much the same way, only this time the expenses are deducted from the value of the fund's assets.

How big is the spread?

It varies. Fund investing in volatile and illiquid markets such as South-East Asia or even UK smaller companies can have spreads of up to 11.5 per cent. In contrast, trusts tracking the performance of their FT-SE 100 index will have a spread of only 0.75 per cent because the costs and charges are so low. The average maximum spread is around 9.5 per cent. The industry has been crying out for a simpler pricing structure for years. It is hoping that the arrival next year of the ugly sounding Oeics (open-ended investment companies, a new form of trust conforming to European laws) will herald the arrival of single pricing. Under single pricing a fund would have one price whether it was being bought or sold.

Can't unit trusts be single priced?

They can. In fact, the SIB is under pressure to introduce single pricing soon after, if not simultaneously with, the launch of Oeics in the new year. But don't hold your breath. Oeics have been delayed more often than commuters this summer. Ironically, one of the suspended Morgan Grenfell trusts, the Dublin-based European Capital Growth, uses single pricing.

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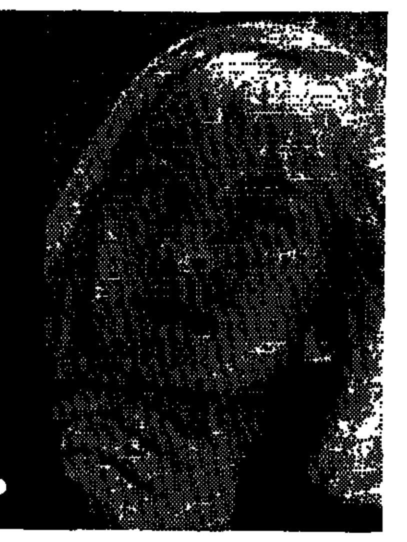

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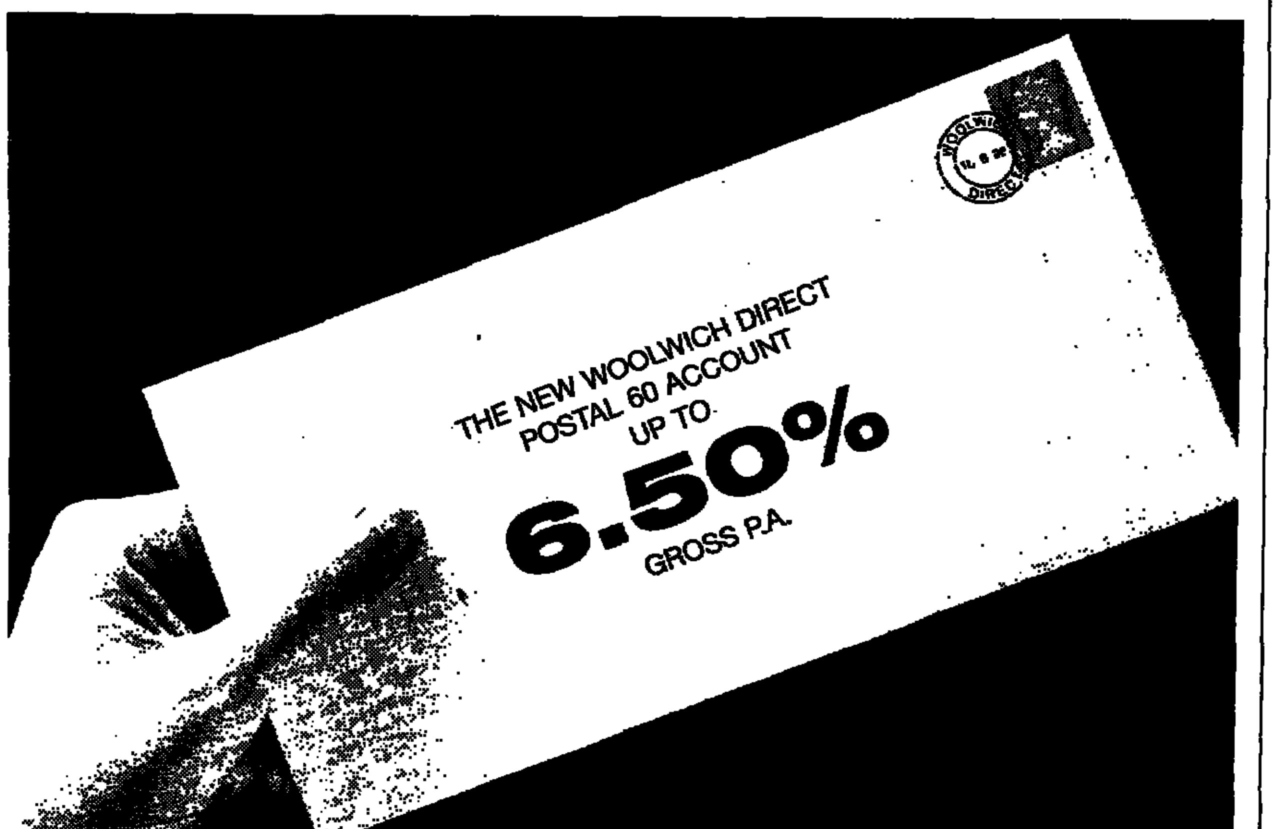
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TRAVEL

Where to escape from the Christmas turkey

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BOOKS

Classic authors enjoy a Dickens of a shelf life

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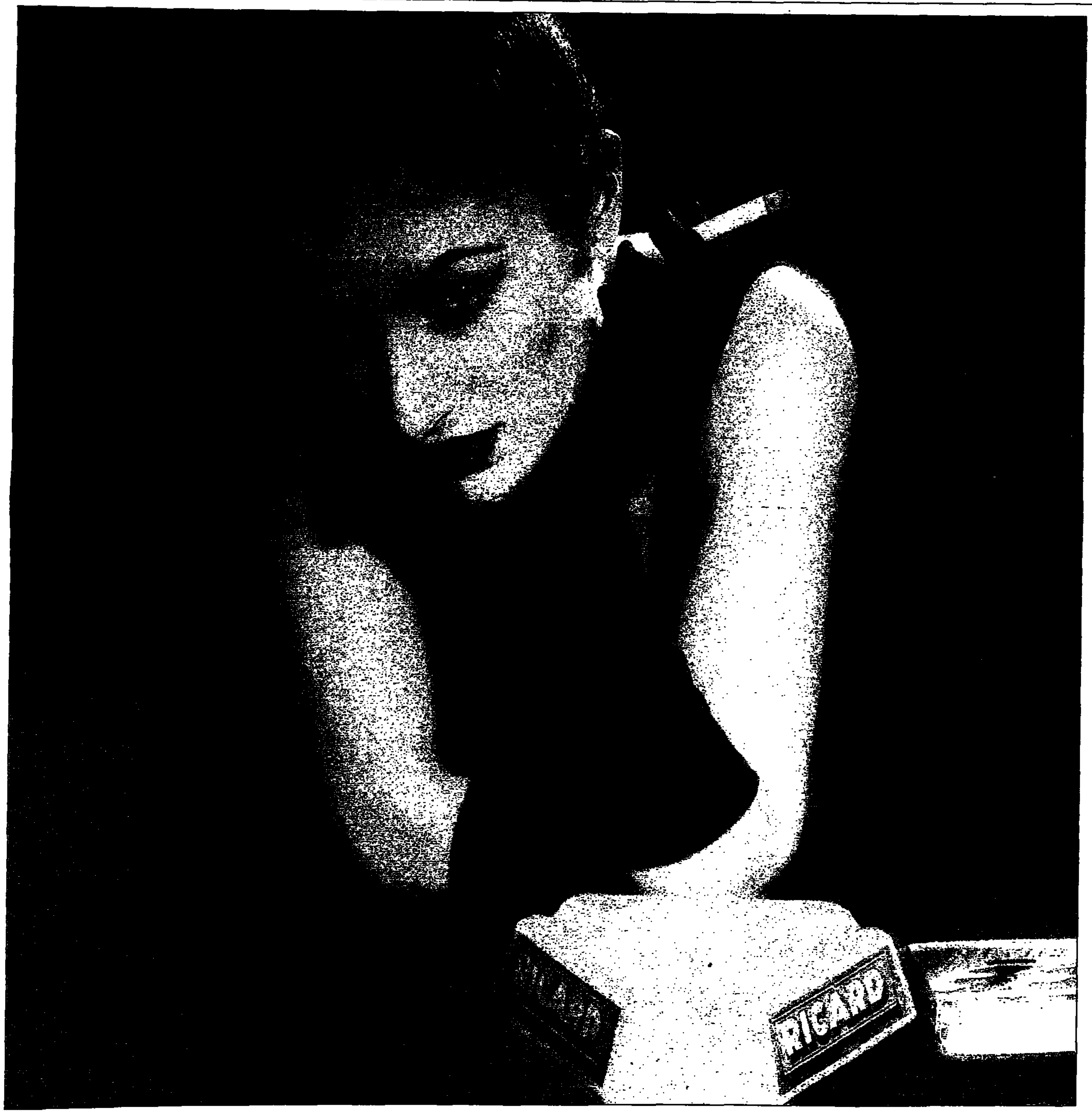
WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1996

KATE MUIR ON THE CONTINENTAL HABIT



In America tobacco is a drug, in France smoking is an art. Who will win the real cigarette war?

Lunchtime in the Café de la Mairie across from Saint-Sulpice in Paris: a beautiful woman enters and heads for a back banquette. She lights up a Gitanes and stretches her back like a luxuriating cat. She orders a salad as her second cigarette burns in the ashtray. Then she smokes her third between bites of lettuce. This is a step up from smoking between courses. For dessert, she combines Gitanes and an espresso. Her tastebuds are dead, but she has the figure of a whippet.

The Franco-Britannique Hospital, obstetrics department: the pregnant women waiting endlessly for their monthly check-ups look tense, not about birth but because some are dying for a cigarette. Outside, by the hospital's rose garden, a woman with what seems like a Space Hopper up her shirt sneaks a quick drag. Inside, others give her jealous looks. One tucks her Marlboro Lights deeper into her bag next to her copy of *J'attends un enfant*.

A family bistro near Montparnasse: a request for the non-smoking section meets with a pitying look. This "section", compulsory by law, is one table directly opposite the lavatory. Worse still,. the lavatory is a stand-up one where the aim must be true. Every five minutes, the smoke-free diners are reminded of this fact as the door swings open.

A grand exhibition at the Pompidou Centre: 20 of the greatest names in design have put their minds to a project of national import — recreating the Gitanes Blondes packet. The task is treated with the same seriousness as, say, a redesign of the French flag. The Blondes packet is a national icon, a symbol of French sophistication. The winner says his redesign symbolises "rebirth" and is for "the young smoker — open, cool, artistic, sympathetic". The papers print this, unquestioning.

As these vignettes show, France is one of the remaining countries where you can smoke and not feel a pariah. In America, President Clinton has classified cigarettes as a drug, but in France smoking remains an art. Both President Chirac and Prime Minister Alain Juppé have been caught smoking in public. The French would be unlikely to elect a president who did not inhale.

On paper, France has stricter rules on smoking than America or Britain. The French have banned all tobacco advertising on television and in magazines since 1991, making Clinton's recent curb on advertisements near schools and in youth magazines seem tame. Smoking has also been illegal for the past five years in all cafés, public workplaces, restaurants and stations, except in designated smoking sections. But as the newspaper *Libération* noted: "The smoking ban is just a big joke."

Café owners have had a tendency to declare their entire room a smoking section. Others have put sarcastic signs in the window: "Non-smokers welcome." Even in the cafeteria of the Palais de Justice, police and judges puff away in a thick fug under the no-smoking signs, each

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'A lot of doctors here smoke – even cancer specialists'

Continued from page 1

risking a £100 fine. Compare this to New York, where last year's smoking ban was obediently complied with in restaurants, and $700 (£470) fines were instantly imposed by the city smoking police on those who misbehaved.

In Paris, the only restaurants that have found it worthwhile to pander to the law on smoking are those that cater for tourists. The Art Nouveau brasserie Bofinger has turned over its main room, with a beautiful stained-glass dome, to non-smokers — that is, rich Americans drawn by the *Michelin Guide*. The native smokers are relegated upstairs.

In most restaurants, however, diners are treated better in smoking sections, while non-smokers are punished with the worst tables.

The ban reached a level of farce in the Métro this summer when transport officials gave out free chocolates to passengers in an attempt to discourage smoking on the platforms — an act which is illegal anyway.

Meanwhile, 34 per cent of the French remain confirmed smokers, compared with 28 per cent of Britons and 25 per cent of Americans.

Is this resistance because the individualistic French dislike interference from authority? Is it because they somehow believe they are immortal, that cancer and heart attacks will pass them by? Or is it because smoking is so socially condoned, so much part of the culture, that *le pause café-clope*, the coffee and fag break, will never die?

Of course, smokers themselves are dying constantly — 60,000 a year of tobacco-related diseases. Lung cancer is the largest cause of death for Frenchmen and it will soon be the same for women. But somehow the shadow of cancer does not hover so menacingly as it does in Britain. Many doctors are somewhat lackadaisical about disciplining their patients, according to François Turpin of the anti-cancer centre at St Cloud. "Doctors here could be a lot more forceful and give better information. Quite a lot of doctors here smoke anyway — even the cancer specialists," Dr Turpin says.

Indeed, one pregnant friend with a pack-a-day habit discussed the risks with her doctor, who said: "I would rather have a calm, relaxed mother-to-be than someone tense and upset trying to give up smoking."

The taboo on pregnant women smoking is less noticeable in France. During an interview with *The Times* earlier this year, the seven-months-pregnant actress Emmanuelle Béart smoked throughout. Compare this with the fuss over the interview in the American magazine *Vanity Fair* with the singer Courtney Love during her pregnancy, when the cigarette she was smoking had to be air-brushed out so as not to offend the American public.

As Dr Turpin notes: "French people are just not *au courant* with the risks, so they worry less. They are under-educated about the dangers."

The French spend a measly three centimes (less than 1p) per person per year on anti-smoking campaigns, the British about 10p, and the Americans $1 (70p).

The Government warnings on French cigarette packs are half the size of those in Britain, and nothing like as direct as the American "Smoking kills". Instead, there is the wimpy "Smoking is bad for your health" or "Smoking can cause cardiovascular disease".

Pascal Melihan-Cheinin, the spokesman for the national anti-smoking campaign, says: "The French don't understand why smoking is forbidden in public places. There has never been any research done here on the effects of passive smoking, so no information programme exists on its dangers. The rights of non-smokers do not seem to matter."

He also has an unexpected explanation for the lack of change in France — the long held link between smoke-filled rooms and industrial action. "Most of the unions here have resisted the anti-smoking laws, because they see them as a way to fire people or hire only non-smokers — also many union leaders smoke," he says.

Interference with the right to smoke is considered an attack on civil liberties. There was outrage when the nightclub owner Règine and her son were arrested earlier this year on an American Airlines flight to New York after he started smoking in the aisle. Most of the French press were up in arms, on the side of smoking, and there were strong editorials against the American "nanny state".

No wonder *Smoke*, the Paul Auster novel turned film, is still playing a year after it opened in Paris, because it embodies the French appreciation of the tobacconist's shop as a pivotal part of the community.

In much of France, the tabac remains a pure concept, unlike British tobacconists, which are mostly newsagents or national chains sullied by Mars Bars and comics.

The narrow tabac just off the Marché St-Honore in Paris has a queue to the door every morning. "I see the same people every day on their way to work. I know their brand," the patron says, indicating the 100-plus varieties with his nicotine-yellowed fingers. He still smokes Gauloise, considered by many city dwellers to be a peasant's cigarette. "Even if I don't know the customer, I can often tell. With young men it's Marlboro, with young women it's Marlboro Lights. Businessmen, it's mostly Gitanes."

At lunchtime, customers come in for a chat and to play Loto, France's national lottery. Even in the city, the tabac has the intimacy of a village shop.

Business is not too bad, the patron says, although he loses customers just after price rises. In fact, over the past five years cigarette consumption has declined by 10 per cent — but not among young people. There are no laws against children buying cigarettes. Indeed, the seven-year-old girl in my building goes out on her scooter to fetch her mother's king-size menthols.

Thus, a spectacular six out of ten French 18-year-olds smoke, the most in the European Union, and 8 per cent of 12-year-olds are addicted. (Incidentally, 12-year-old smokers alone bring in tax revenue to the Government of £3 million a year, according to the anti-smoking campaign.)

Outside every school at breaktime, clumps of teenagers light up under the eyes of their teachers. There is no need to hide behind the bike sheds. Although school term has not started, teenagers hanging round the basketball court off the Rue du Bac are clearly underage smokers.

Why do you smoke? I ask one schoolgirl who is smoking a Marlboro. "Everyone does," she shrugs. "Do your parents know?" "Yes, but they don't approve. And, anyway, they smoke themselves."

Cigarettes are cheap in France, from Fr15 (£2) a packet, the same price as a double-scoop ice-cream. Pocket money goes a long way on nicotine.

How can France's 15 million smokers kick the habit when it is so ingrained in the national psyche? How can they condemn an act that Jean-Paul Sartre, Jacques Prévert, Catherine Deneuve, Serge Gainsbourg and Jean Genet performed with such style?

In the black and white postcards of Paris in the late 1940s and 1950s, no Left Bank intellectual is without his snout.

France's hero, General de Gaulle, was a three-pack-a-day man who gave up in 1947 when he woke to find his bed on fire, but still continued to carry a lighter in case any ladies smoked, and allowed his Cabinet members to puff cigars during meetings.

When challenged, smokers will often cite the example of their countrywoman Jeanne Calment, who has been addicted to the weed for nearly a century. The oldest person in the world at 121, Mme Calment smokes every day after meals. She gave up at 117, but started again a year later. "I like cigarettes and I was miserable when I wasn't smoking," she explains.

The only restaurants in Paris that have found it worth their while to pander to the law on smoking are those that cater for the tourists

A spectacular six out of ten French 18-year-olds smoke, the most in the European Union

THE EUROPEAN HABIT

● SPAIN is a smoker's bastion. Nearly 40 per cent of the population smokes, and it is the country with the highest per capita consumption of cigarettes in the European Union.

Although men still have the edge in the cigarette stakes, señoras may soon outnumber them.

Tobacco advertising is permitted on billboards and in magazines but banned on television although the husky, fag-frayed voices of Spain's lady newsreaders are the most perfect publicity cigarette companies could wish for.

Even though the Government has an ambitious anti-smoking campaign, aimed particularly at schoolchildren, it also guards jealously its monopoly over the production and distribution of tobacco in the country. The contradiction has not so far been noted officially.

● *THE GREEK state airline*, Olympic Airways, banned smoking on its domestic flights in 1990. Last year the health ministry aired several television commercials in which smokers were portrayed as definitely un-cool. Yet about 46 per cent of all Greeks smoke, and the number is rising, despite a flurry of public awareness activity by the Ministry of Health aimed at young people and pregnant women. About 65 per cent of Greek doctors smoke, even in hospital corridors, where large no-smoking signs are blithely ignored by staff, patients and visitors.

Studies show that 38 per cent of boys and 39 per cent of girls aged 17-18 smoke.

Officials blame a strong tobacco lobby for discouraging severer anti-smoking measures. Export earnings from tobacco last year totalled almost £100 million.

● IN ITALY, smoking is so much a way of life that when the television cameras zoomed in on the winner of the Palio, the Siena horse race around the streets, last month, the jockey's first reaction was to light up. Politicians, doctors, film stars and sportsmen think nothing of smoking on television. All the more surprising then to discover that the number of smokers in Italy is falling. In 1986, 30 per cent of adults smoked; now it is just over 25 per cent. This is partly due to the 1990 ban on advertising cigarettes, which can be bought only from authorised outlets.

Pipe-man Kohl (1982) no longer smokes in public

Statistics appear to show a decline in smoking among the 14 to 18-year-olds, but the anecdotal evidence is that they smoke more and that more girls smoke than boys.

According to Rosy Bindi, the Minister of Health, Italy is "suspicious of moralising puritanical crusades" such as the one launched by President Clinton. "We need health education, not slogans."

● THE GERMANS, reputedly obsessed with health and a mania for regulation, have a surprisingly liberal attitude to smoking. Trains have extensive smoking carriages and restaurants do not consign smokers to the worst tables.

More than 40 per cent of men and about 30 per cent of women smoke, but the number of those who have kicked the habit has been steadily growing over the last ten years.

Coalition politics are still thrashed out in smoke-filled rooms, but the political parties ban smoking and hide the ashtrays when they invite the television cameras to film their democracy at work. Chancellor Helmut Kohl still smokes a pipe, but no longer in public.

Tobacco advertising is banned from radio and television and glamorisation of smokers is officially outlawed, but that has not prevented prominent ads for the popular "West" brand. A couple, visibly topless, laze in a mountain lake puffing in intimate contentment. "Test it" says the caption suggestively.

● *Reporting by Tunku Varadarajan, John Carr, Richard Owen and Peter Bild.*

Cover picture by MAL STONE
Main picture this page by REX FEATURES. Scene above right and picture of Chancellor Kohl by COLORIFIC.
President Clinton by AP

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"Sucker" Clinton does not inhale

In America, home of the anti-tobacco movement, the campaign against smoking has been conducted over 30 years. It has been a classic deployment of emotional advocacy and long-term political control-wresting. At times it has run counter to American traditions of personal freedom, but for smokers there is now no escaping the fact that, officially, they are exiles.

Anti-smoking advocates, typically, come from the educated middle classes, people well versed in the victim-speak of liberal America and expert at organising themselves into committees. The tobacco industry has spent millions of dollars trying to vanquish the threat, but for every lobbyist and every lunch there has been more than adequate numbers of opponents of the weed.

John Banzhaf, who founded the action group Ash (Action on Smoking and Health) in the 1960s, identifies certain important dates in the transformation of smoking in America from popular habit to pariah addiciton:

HOW AMERICA UPPED THE ANTI

- **1964:** the US Surgeon General's office reported that smoking could cause lung cancer, the first Government agency to do so.
- **1965:** a federal law demanded health warnings to be placed on cigarette packets. These said tobacco could be "hazardous".
- **1967:** the Federal Communications Commission, in a "fairness doctrine", provided for anti-smoking messages to be broadcast on television. In one early example, a boy was shown imitating his father in various household tasks, finishing with the youngster copying his dad by lighting a cigarette. A slogan read: "Like father, like son". The television slots led to the first drop in cigarette consumption.
- **1971:** cigarette commercials were banned from radio and television. This measure was supported by the tobacco industry, which hoped that it would satisfy the antis and that they would drop their campaign. The wish was not fulfilled.
- **1973:** smoking was banned in some sections of American aeroplanes.
- **1975:** Arizona became the first state to recognise non-smokers' rights. This led to the restriction on smoking in some public places such as lifts and corridors.
- **1976:** first injunction against smoking in an office. The case, in New Jersey, concerned a telephone company employee who claimed she was sensitive to smoke and deserved a non-fuggy work atmosphere. The court agreed.
- **1981:** New Hampshire banned smoking in most public places.
- **1982:** the No Net Cost Tobacco Programme Act eliminated many subsidies to American tobacco farmers.
- **1986:** two federal agencies concluded that passive smoking could cause lung cancer.
- **1988:** smoking ban on internal flights of two hours or less.
- **1990:** smoking ban on all domestic flights.
- **1993:** the Environmental Protection Agency reported that passive smoking can cause group A carcinogens.
- **1994:** McDonald's banned smoking in all its hamburger outlets — a "genuinely important moment" in the words of John Banzhaf.
- **1996:** Bill Clinton, the first American president habitually to suck unlit cigars (his wife will not let him smoke in the White House) classed tobacco an addictive drug. This placed cigarettes in the domain of the Food and Drugs Administration, which quickly issued guidelines. Tobacco advertisements in youth-orientated magazines are now limited and cigarette hoardings at sports venues are restricted.

For all the legislative muscle the non-smokers now have, cigarette manufacturers have not yet lost the war. Smoking among children is on the rise, and in chic urban circles, such as twenty-something Manhattan, the cigarette remains hip. Groups such as Ash do not admit it, but there is a suspicion that the smoking argument has now reached the stage that the more they drone on about the dangers of cigarettes, the more the young will be inclined to want to light up, partly to see what all the fuss is about, partly to irritate the older generation.

QUENTIN LETTS

Forget exams and league tables. At last, the answer to a problem that has worried parents for years: what to put in the tuck box?

Making a break for the boarder

HOME MADE

Paul Heiney

Never having had a boarding school education. I know little of what goes into tuck boxes. The nearest we got to tuck at our school was those third-pint bottles of milk which Mrs Thatcher stopped. They were doled out by the prefects in such an engaging way that they thumped you if you had the cheek to ask for a bottle, and thumped you even harder if you didn't, because they felt like it. Happy days. She may not have known it, but stopping that milk may have been Mrs T's greatest contribution to law and order.

But I can imagine what goes into a tuck box. There must be nothing of a nutritional nature, vitamins specifically excluded, and if any item cannot be held in one hand, the wrapper removed with the other and then eaten while still turning the pages of a Latin primer, it is no tuck box food at all. All this is very much on my mind, having just dispatched a child back to his boarding school for the new term. I neither shopped for, nor packed the tuck box, and so it would be unwise of me to criticise. However, it would be fair to say that the contents owed more to the efforts of that nice Cadbury family than to ours. But we are not alone; one returning boy was heard to boast that his tuck box contained nothing but a kilo of Frosties.

Do not think we feel no shame. One proud boy lugged his mum's massive fruit cake more than 200 miles only to find that the journey had reduced it to its original ingredients. Never mind, she may be a lousy cook, but she's a *real* parent, and he'll think lovingly of her every time he takes a teaspoon to that mountain of crumbs. But for most parents, carrying a burden of guilt for having sent their children away in the first place, and feeling that they should be provided for as if they were in for a spell as a Beirut hostage, where do they turn for advice? No one has given this specialised but essential branch of family cookery much thought.

But I have, and I am now of the opinion that nothing beats a cake. No ordinary cake, though: it needs to be rich enough to be fortifying, heavy enough to keep them at their desks during homework, moist enough to last without the lid on the tin (because they will forget); it must also be cuttable with a protractor, and hold together in such a way that the crumbs can be rolled into tight balls and flicked across a classroom with a ruler. Here goes.

In the early 1960s, the middle-aged Stella Atterbury, who confesses to being no cook at the time, decided to open a country hotel. Her book, *Never Too Late* (now out of print), told of her rapid education in the kitchen. One major problem was never knowing with any certainty how many people would be requiring afternoon tea, and hence how many cakes she should bake, and which they might prefer — like having to feed a horde of schoolchildren, really. So she came up with a "cake foundation" recipe and, when she wanted a cake, all she had to do was quickly add the fruit, spice, chocolate, cherries, whatever. All the hard work had already been done. Ingenious, for there is no doubt that if the cake is a success, there will soon be a blot-stained note requesting another.

The foundation consists of a pound of cooking margarine or butter, a pound of caster sugar and four eggs. The sugar and margarine are creamed and then, she warns, "the eggs must be added gently otherwise the resulting cakes will rise quickly while cooking, and then flop". This may be anathema in the country house hotel but not in tuck boxes, so I attacked the mixing with none too light a hand. The resulting canary yellow cream will keep in a fridge for as long as the eggs would have done. Miss Atterbury says at least a fortnight.

Then to the flavouring, and the choice is bewildering. Starting with your foundation, you have the basic building block for everything from a cherry gateau to a sand cake. My eye fell upon the apple sauce cake. With apples, it will at least have some vitamins in it. But don't tell him.

I peeled, cored and sliced three of my prize Norfolk Beefings (rare cooking apples I grow in the garden) and boiled them gently with a drop of water until they were a mush. I took 10oz of my foundation, simply added an ounce of butter, two of dark brown sugar, 8oz of mixed dried fruit and candied peel, 8oz of plain flour and a teaspoon of bicarbonate of soda. Together with an egg, I mixed them until they held together, and found it was the easiest cake I had ever made. Then I added about half a pint of the apple mush, a hefty teaspoon of ground cinnamon instead of the recommended 2oz of chopped preserved ginger (because he doesn't like it), and mixed. That's it. Too easy.

With a gallon or two of foundation lurking in the larder, you could have a freshly-baked cake every day of the week for the time it takes to do a bit of simple mixing. I baked it for about an hour and quarter in a medium oven.

It smelt fantastic, seasonal and inspiring. Resisting all temptations to devour it, I have put it in the post.

I have not yet heard how things are going this term, but if he writes asking for another one, but with a file added to the mixture, we shall know that school is running normally.

CHOCOLATE BOX

NO LESS a judge than Michel Roux described her as the Queen of Chocolate: her truffles moved Egon Ronay to pronounce that they had no equal. SARA JAYNE is one of Britain's finest chocolate makers and the marketing director of the Académie Culinaire in London:

HAVING been passionate about food and cooking all my life, insistent on making everything for my dinner parties and tired of manufacturers' mass-produced imposters, I experimented in the early 1980s with a recipe for truffles that I found in a book called *The Great Chefs of France*. It was, as far as I can remember, a simple combination of cocoa powder, icing sugar and butter. As it is with these coincidences · which change lives, two of my dinner guests on that occasion had just opened a fine food shop and asked me to make some more to sell. The truffles took off, taking me completely by surprise. That was 14 years and more than 300,000 truffles ago, although the recipe and ingredients have changed dramatically since then.

It is vital that you use the very best ingredients, the finer the better. As the variety of the grape, the soil in which it is grown, the climate and the husbandry is so important for *grand cru* wines, so the cocoa bean and its geography is important for chocolate. But you can find decent chocolate in nearly every high street supermarket (look for Menier and M&S own brand).

SIXTY per cent cocoa solids is what you need for a cracking taste. (That is cocoa and cocoa butter and the more cocoa butter, the smoother and more sensuous it is.) You don't have to break the bank but it's worth getting a good product — the taste is better and it is easier to handle.

Cheap chocolate "seizes" (thickens to an unmanagable mass) very easily while cocoa butter keeps it viscous. Apart from the quality of the ingredients, you must be prepared to practise and have bags of patience and perseverance. I recall a patissier from the Ritz in Paris telling me that after only two weeks away from his rolling pin, he feels stale and uninspired when he returns. What hope is there for us mere mortals?

● *Next week: Sara Jayne reveals her truffle recipe.*

Buffalo on the bill

WITH THE continuing nervousness about BSE, not being a cow is becoming something of a selling point on the supermarket shelf. After ostrich and kangaroo, the latest beast to hog the limelight is the buffalo.

Safeway and Waitrose have already started trials of a buffalo cheese made from a buffalo herd in Worcester. The cheesemaker, Malvern Cheesewrights, perhaps wisely, decided not to go for a buffalo mozzarella (the Italians having already been there and done that) but to produce an unpasteurised hard cheese which has roughly the consistency of cheddar, the colour of a sheep's milk cheese (a sort of dirty cream) and a pungent, rather goaty flavour.

Although the cheese is proving a local hit in Worcester, it seems unlikely to sweep the nation. For a start, it costs £6.49 a lb (buffalo yield about a third of the milk of a cow) and, secondly, it is unfashionably high in fat: as the Safeway newsletter rather surprisingly chooses to reveal in these gastronomically correct times, buffalo milk has a 78 per cent fat content, double that from a Friesian cow.

Sainsbury's is also putting a toe in the water with buffalo steaks, which have just gone into 11 of its stores. According to a spokesman, they come from a ranch in Alberta "roughly the same size as Wales" and are very lean. As well they might be at £32 a kg.

Going Latin

THOSE relentless sensation-seekers among you who are already bored with balti, tired of Thai, and stuffed with sushi will be delighted to learn that a new restaurant craze is on the way: Latin American.

My Kinda Town — the owner of the Chicago Pizza Pie Factory and Henry J. Bean chains — has followed up the success of its Salsa and Cuba restaurants in London by opening a third Latin restaurant, the Havana in Fulham Broadway, west London, while next week sees a whole week devoted to Argentina in such beacons of London fashionability as the Groucho Club, the Avenue and Kensington Place.

Before you get too excited, I feel it is only fair to warn you that the success of Latin American restaurants probably owes rather more to potency of the caiprinhas (a heady rum and lime cocktail) and the seductiveness of the music than to the quality of the cuisine. "Throughout Argentina Week, you will have the chance of experiencing Dolores Sola and Maria Volonte performing vibrant seductive tango," heavily breathes the leaflet issued by John Armit Wines (0171-727 6846), which is co-ordinating the week's events.

If you can't make a date with Dolores and Maria you can always console yourself with a jar of Dulce di Leche, the irresistibly fudgy caramel spread that forms the backbone of the Argentinian desserts which are (according to the aforementioned steamy leaflet) "born of the fantasies of Argentinian women who are some of the most beautiful in the world".

Presumably they just fantasise about it rather than eat it.

DIGEST

Fiona Beckett

A 450g jar contains a mind-boggling 5,800 calories. If you don't care, you can find it in Sainsbury's Special Selection at £2.95 for a 450g jar.

Get baking

IT IS NOT often that I get inspired by books on baking, which these days mainly seem to focus on how to make a cake in the shape of Pamela Anderson. But a new book by former *Masterchef* winner Sue Lawrence, *On Baking* (Kyle Cathie, £18.99), is enticing enough to make you want to take it up full time.

Sue includes a wide range of recipes from the homely (singin' hinnies) to the exotic (spinach empanadas) to the downright decadent (polenta chocolate cake). Among the other recipes I'm dying to try are lime and brown sugar meringue biscuits, yoghurt and bramble scones and banana pizza.

Incidentally, if you *are* hankering after a Pamela Anderson cake, from next month you will be able to buy Sainsbury's new Beach Babe cake complete with "edible 3D red fondant bathing suit" for just £7.50. Can't wait.

Book early

IT IS APPALLING to have to think of Christmas already, but if you want to eat out it's as well to make a reservation now. Not that it's cheap. You could probably take the entire family to the Costa Brava for the price of Christmas lunch in some of London's top hotels. According to a release from the Savoy group, the Berkeley will cost £115 a head, Claridges £125 and the Savoy River Room £145 (a mere £75 for children under 12).

New Year's Eve is even worse, rising to £195 (Berkeley), £225 (Claridges — including, as well they might, half a bottle of champagne) and £295 (Savoy, inclusive of drink and the Grenadier guards). Even allowing for the overtime paid to staff to work over Christmas, it seems a bit steep.

Things are a little better out of London. For £340 (little more than the cost of dinner at the Savoy) you can spend three nights at the very comfortable Castle hotel in Taunton, where the chef is the excellent Phil Vickery, inclusive of all meals, as well as a five-course Christmas lunch. The New Year's Eve dinner is a bargain too, at only £65.

Hot news

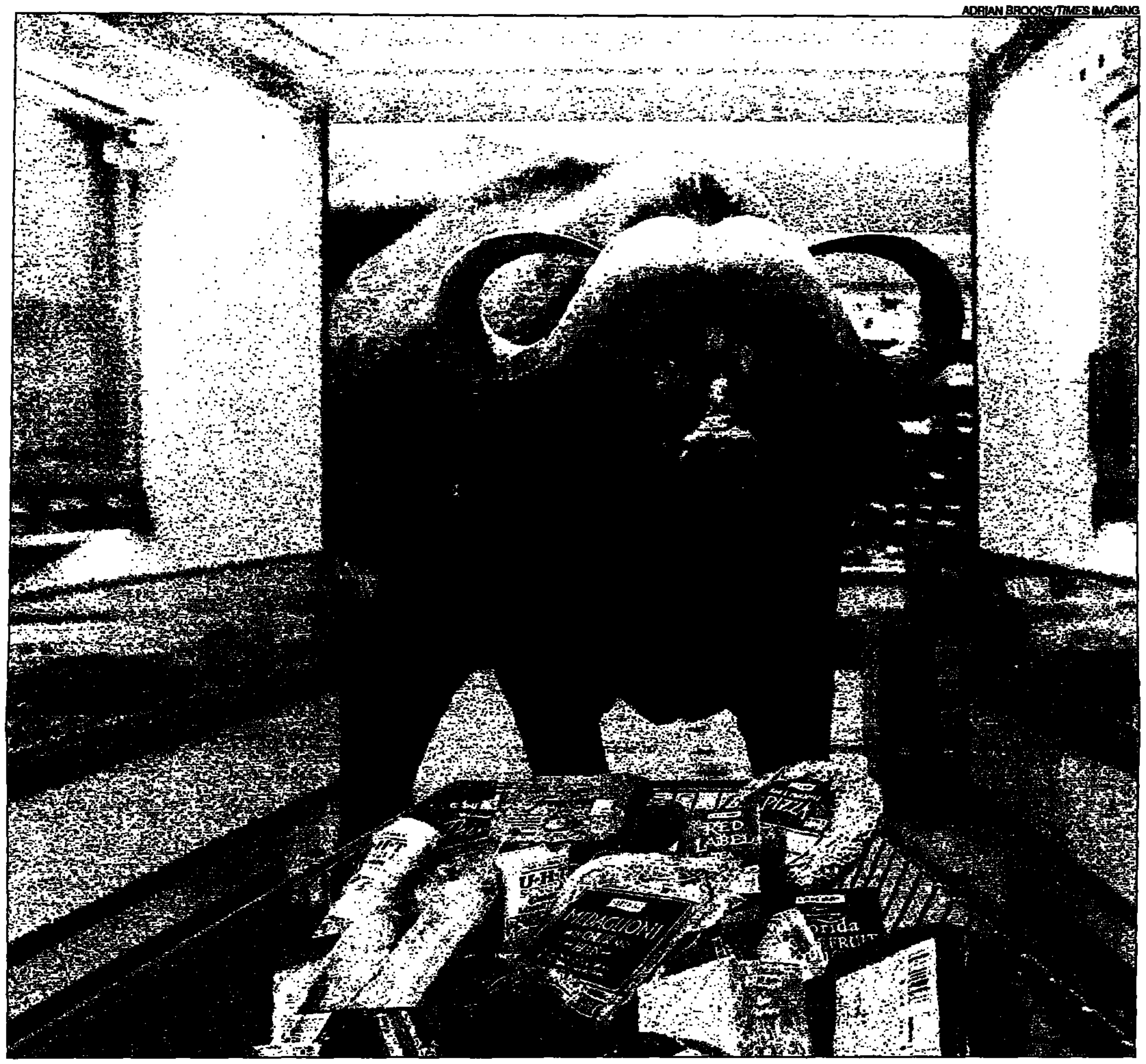
YET ANOTHER event designed to entice the growing band of chilliheads: Fortnum & Mason has a Hot and Spicy promotion running for two weeks from next Saturday. On sale will be several "infernally hot" products including Fire of the Sea sardines, Hellfire and Damnation sauce, and Fire Nuggets — "the hottest pretzels in the world" — as well as a specially designed range of sweets including "chocolate-enrobed" chillies, vodka and chilli truffles, and coriander and pepper fudge.

There will also be a daily seminar on a "hot" topic, which will include Indian, Thai and Indonesian spices.

Tickets, which must be reserved in advance, are £5. For further details of events, contact Miranda Schofield on 0171-734 8040.

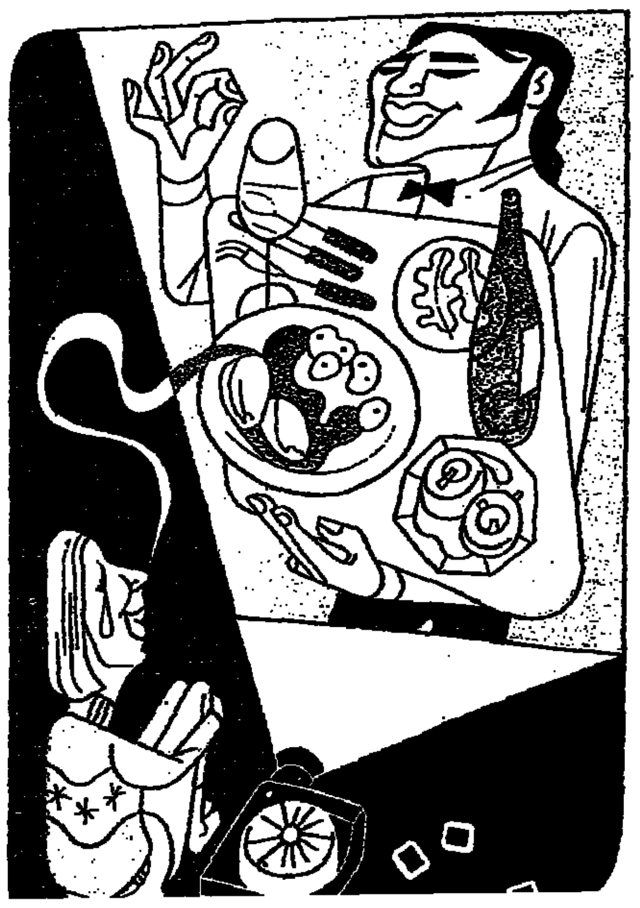
More food and drink in the Magazine

ADRIAN BROOKS/TIMES IMAGING



Buffalo in the wings: after ostrich and kangaroo meat comes cheese made from buffalo milk as well as steaks for the well-heeled and adventurous

Just like mama used to make



ITALIAN HOLIDAY REVISITED
Serves four

Sparkling wine cocktail
Veal in mushroom and marsala sauce
Potatoes with rosemary and olive oil
Green salad
Peaches baked with honey

This supper, which may remind you of your Italian holiday, uses those bottles of drink and olive oil you lugged all the way home. Marsala is required but you could substitute most fortified wines or a little less of a liqueur made from grapes or other fruit, such as crème de cassis, brandy or calvados.

■ Make potatoes
Pre-heat the oven to 200C/400F/Gas mark 6.

Thinly slice 500g (1lb 2oz) medium-sized new potatoes and put in a baking dish with 2tbs olive oil, a few sprigs of rosemary, salt and black pepper. Put in the oven for about

FAST FOOD

■ Make peaches
Cut four peaches in half. Remove the stone and about 1tbs flesh from each. Chop up the flesh and put to one side. Put the peaches in an ovenproof dish and put a little Marsala (or any other fruity drink you have to hand), ½ tsp honey and ½ tbs mascarpone into each. Cover the dish with foil and put in the oven for about 30 minutes.

■ Make veal
Cut 250g (9oz) button mushrooms into slices. Heat 1tbs oil in a large frying pan and cook four veal escalopes (try to get British) for about a minute on each side. Add 100ml (4fl oz) marsala and the mushrooms. Cook until the sauce has reduced down a little and the meat and mushrooms are cooked. If using another kind of drink, taste the reduced sauce and add a little sugar or cream if it is too sharp or a little vinegar if too sweet. Turn off the heat.

■ Serve cocktails
Put a sugar lump in the bottom of each glass. Add a little marsala, fruit liqueur or brandy and top up with inexpensive sparkling wine.

■ Serve veal
Quickly re-heat the meat and sauce. Chop up 1tbs parsley and scatter over the meat and sauce. Serve with the potato and a green salad simply dressed with a squeeze of lemon juice, 1½ tbs olive oil, salt and pepper.

■ Serve peaches
Put the chopped peach on top of the mascarpone. Crush two handfuls of ratafia biscuits and sprinkle over. Serve two halves to each person.

Shopping List

Fruit and vegetables
500g (1lb 2oz) medium new potatoes
sprigs of rosemary
4 peaches
250g (9oz) button mushrooms
1tbs parsley
1 lettuce
squeeze of lemon

Store cupboard
4tbs olive oil
4tsp honey
2 handfuls ratafia biscuits

Dairy
4tbs mascarpone

Meat
4 veal escalopes (British if possible)

Drink
150ml marsala or other fruity drink
1 bottle sparkling wine

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GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **I grow the large-flowered tuberous begonias in a wooden conservatory and they are usually covered in flowers, strong and almost like shrubs. Last year one got mildew and this year they are all covered with it. I treated the dry tubers with flowers of sulphur in winter and have sprayed the mildew this year but to no avail.** — J. Mason, Shepshed, Leicestershire.

A Spraying against mildew once it has got a hold in something as soft as a begonia is usually ineffectual. Next year try spraying earlier, before the infection strikes, to clean up your stock. Do not grow them too hot and dry. Because they are so top heavy in pots it is easier to grow them under glass, but you must give plenty of ventilation to avoid the greatest heat. If it is any consolation, my *Begonia sutherlandii*, which grew cleanly for ten years in the north, this year succumbed to mildew in the south, even outdoors. I had assumed it to be immune.

Q **How should you dead-head floribunda roses? If you cut back to the nearest bud you seem to take off rather a lot of stalk and leaf, but if you don't the result looks like a hat-peg muddle.** — Mrs M. Bevan, Cambridge.

A I wonder if you are cutting back to the first dormant bud or the first bud which has started to shoot? You should remove the whole cluster of spent flowers down to the first (or first strong) leaf and bud. There may be a leaf attached at the base of the cluster, especially on lank varieties such as 'Iceberg', and this will have to go. So long as you get flowers again reasonably quickly you are not cutting too low.

Q **The heathers and heaths in my garden are becoming overgrown. I want to cut the areas back so they occupy their allocated spaces. When is it best to do this?** — R. Forster, Stockport, Cheshire.

A With the exception of the tree heath *Erica arborea*, most heaths and heathers do not respond to being cut back hard. You can reduce the area they cover by cutting back sideways in March but do not expect old wood to sprout new shoots or old plants to look young again. It is better to have the lot out and start again with fresh young plants. The life span of heathers varies. Some look good for five to six years, others for 30 if you keep them well pinched back in their youth and middle age. Replant in September/October or March/April. *E. arborea* can grow to 10ft tall or more, with proper trunks. These can be cut down low in spring and will sprout well. The tree can live for 100 years or more.

● *Readers wishing to have their gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend,* The Times, *1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.* The Times *also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

If you are planning an evergreen hedge, you don't have to wait until the spring, **Stephen Anderton** says

Hedging your bets for the autumn

Early autumn is the time to be planting evergreen hedges. There is nothing like misty, cool autumn days for settling in new evergreens, although an Indian summer and a few buckets of water are almost as good.

Unlike deciduous plants, evergreens not only keep their leaves through the winter but they use them throughout, continuously turning light into energy, if rather more slowly than in summer. To do that they must have roots that work properly. And to that end evergreens need to be transplanted just before the end of the season, when there is less heat and sunlight to exercise the leaves but the ground is still warm enough to encourage the roots of a newly planted shrub to push out into the surrounding soil and to establish a source of nourishment. When winter winds tear at the leaves, the sap has to be drawn from somewhere.

Some people like to plant evergreens in spring, just before the growing season starts in March, so that again the roots have a chance to establish themselves before being exercised by growth above. I prefer to plant in autumn, because the plants then get off to the optimum start in spring. I know a really bad winter can wallop some newly-planted hedges, burning foliage or even killing outright, and there is logic in leaving that risk in the nurseryman's hand rather than your own.

If a hedge is to go into an exposed position, then good staking of taller plants and some physical protection from the wind, by hessian or webbed plastic windbreak, is sensible.

Really gruesome, windswept seaside sites are better left until spring. But in normal garden conditions, autumn planting of most evergreens is advantageous.

Last month I spent £80 on 16 pot-grown yew trees to make a hedge. They were a couple of feet high. I could have spent half as much again for taller plants, but £80 seemed like enough for a hedge. At least with yews you can plant them well apart, at 30-36in intervals, as opposed to 12in for thorn, or 18in for beech.

Yew is more commonly offered pot-grown these days just because it is easier to handle for the retailers and can be sold at any time. But now is still the best time to plant it. It will come cheaper if you can find plants which have been lifted with a rootball with its soil intact and bundled in hessian. The risks are higher. But at a fiver a plant I wonder just how well thay have been treated on the long journey from Holland, the home of so many non-specialist plants.

When I see bundles of Dutch-grown cherry laurel coming bare-rooted off the back of a lorry on a windy March day, in a commercial nursery, I see the sense in buying plants which can be seen to be thriving in a pot, even if they cost more. Laurel will survive that degree of rough and tumble, but not yew. And yew, be aware, can take a deceptively long time to die. Did the yew which browned off in April or May receive the fatal shock in January, or March, or last week? How will you prove it?

You will not find much in the way of substantial pot-grown evergreen hedging plants for under £2.50, so a hedge is an investment and it pays to cosset it.

TIM SANDALL

Plant evergreens in the autumn while the ground is still warm enough to encourage the roots to establish themselves

Life for hedging plants is hell. There they are, standing shoulder to shoulder for the whole of their working lives, fighting each other for food and water. If they put a leaf out of place someone chops it off.

The same goes for roots sometimes. Someone might throw them a handful of Growmore once a year, or maybe a mulch of compost. But that is all. So getting them off to a generous start is terribly important.

Dig a proper trench for a new hedge. Two feet deep and as much wide is not at all over-generous. Get some manure or old compost into the bottom, and work some slow-release fertiliser into the soil before you plant. Pretend they are prize leeks and you are out to plant the row of rows.

Light is as important as food for a strong hedge, and hedges in dingy, overhung corners will always be slower. Healthy yew in full light will put on a foot a year happily. Cypresses will double or treble that. Even holly, although slow to establish, will put on 18in.

But a tall hedge which is thin at the bottom is an opportunity missed. Broadleafed evergeen hedges, such as laurel and privet, are best shortened by two thirds at planting to ensure they bush out before setting off upwards. Conifers such as cypresses and yew are better grown on a single leader and not stopped, although the faster, sappier cypresses such as leylandii can be stopped young and will soon develop a second leader. Holly should only be stopped if it looks unlikely to develop a well-furnished base.

Some people like to plant staggered hedges, in two rows of alternate plants. But unless you want a particularly fat hedge (which is harder to maintain) most evergreens are stocky enough to succeed as a single line. Spindlier deciduous species, such as beech or thorn, can be usefully planted in staggered rows. Privet and golden privet, which are virtually evergreen in a normal winter, can also be planted in staggered rows, if required.

It is a kindness to any new hedge to keep grass and lawns well back for three or four years, until they are established. I like to maintain a foot of bare, or better still mulched, soil between the two, to reduce competition and to ensure that all possible light is let in to the lower branches in those formative years. The denser a hedge at the bottom in its first two or three years, the better it will be ten years down the line. And in 20 years. And in 50. So give it a good start.

PLANTING A HEDGE

Dig a trench of 2ft deep by 2ft wide. Pack manure or old compost around the root ball and work slow-release fertiliser into the soil.

TIPS FOR A PERFECT HEDGE

1. Shorten broadleafed evergreen hedges, such as laurel and privet, by two thirds at planting to ensure that they bush out.
2. Conifers, such as cypresses and yew, are better grown on a single leader and not stopped.
3. Holly should only be stopped if it looks unlikely to develop a good base.
4. Maintain a foot of bare, or mulched soil, between the hedge and lawn.
5. Protect from the wind with hessian or webbed plastic windbreak. Stake tall plants.

PLANTING DISTANCES

Berberis darwinii	18in	Privet	15in
Box	15in	Thuja	24in
Dwarf box	9in	Yew	30in
Holly	24in	Escallonia*	24in
Laurel	24in	Hebe*	24in
Lawson cypress	24in	Griselinia*	24in
Leyland cypress	36in	Olearia*	24in

** Especially suitable for seaside exposure*

Gardens to visit

The Dingle garden in Welshpool

■ **Holchird, Troutbeck, Windermere, Cumbria (015394 46008).**

On A592 Patterdale Road, one mile north of Windermere via A591. Open daily all year, sunrise to sunset. Entrance by donation.

By this time of year the summer holiday crowds have gone and this delightful five-acre garden displays many of its best features. On the slopes overlooking Lake Windermere, it enjoys views to distant Scafell Pike. The rainfall is high and many of the plants thrive in the constantly damp conditions.

Tended by members of the Lakeland Horticultural Society, the garden originally benefited from the attention of William Groves who sponsored plant-hunting trips to the Himalayas. Some of these plants have survived, including a towering handkerchief tree, *Davidia involucrata*.

At this time of the year the banks of heathers are at their best, as well as late-flowering shrubs and trees, such as eucryphias. The walled garden, with its immaculate series of borders, contrasts with the more natural style of winding paths elsewhere, and the array of plants includes three collections for the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) — hydrangeas, astilbes (an enormous array) and polysticum ferns — all of which enjoy the wet and are to be admired in late-summer and autumn.

■ **Picton Garden, Colwall, Great Malvern, Worcestershire (01684 540416).**

Three miles west of Malvern, on B4218. Open daily until Oct 20, 10am-5.30pm. £1.50.

If you thought Michaelmas daisies [illegible] Picton Garden during the next few weeks will change your mind. It is on the spectacular, west-facing side of the Malvern hills, and has a distinguished background.

At the beginning of this century Ernest Ballard, the renowned nurseryman, raised many new Michaelmas daisies here, and the tradition has been followed by two generations of Pictons, Percy and now his son Paul, who have maintained the garden's horticultural heritage.

A path leads from the nursery into the [illegible] time of year, the borders of Michaelmas daisies, arranged so as to present a visual encyclopaedia, are a spectacular sight.

In recent years the garden's diversity has steadily grown; the rose garden will be past its best now but the richly planted mixed herbaceous borders give an indication of the unusual perennials that can be found within the nursery, as well as the alpines that spread their way across the tufa rock garden.

■ **The Dingle, Welshpool, Powys (01938 555145).**

Three miles north of Welshpool via A490 to Llanfyllian. Open daily, except Tues. 9am-5pm. Garden entry £1 for charity, children free.

The Dingle garden tumbles down a steep hillside, from the house to a large pool at the bottom and many visitors' first reaction is wonder at how the garden was made at all as they follow the dizzy paths that zig-zag down the slope between well-grouped banks of trees and shrubs.

Lots of conifers, including many dwarf varieties, give substance to the planting and show off the selection of more unusual and decorative trees and shrubs, such as eucalyptus and pieris.

On the far side of the pool, a section of woodland can be explored in a more leisurely atmosphere than the main area on the slope.

Looking from here across the water to the garden rising up on the far side the careful grouping and arrangement of plants, that has been built up over many years, is clearly evident. From now into October the show of autumn foliage becomes increasingly impressive and the nursery offers tempting and unusual plants for sale.

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Mellow, yellow and bordering on dramatic

Daisies are ideal flowers for providing a burst of colour in late summer

September provides an embarrassment of daisies. Suddenly the roses and delphiniums are over and the garden is bathed in the ochre of rudbeckias, helianthus, heliopsis, and heleniums, all rich and golden with their own individual attractions and habits.

But what should we mix with them? It might be purple salvias, scarlet crocosmias, dahlias or reefs of rich blue-and-white agapanthus.

Forde Abbey in Dorset has a huge, long border devoted to late-season yellows and mauves, and it is breathtakingly bold and beautiful in the late afternoon sun. Waterperry Gardens in Oxfordshire has stock beds where you can see dozens of late daisies strutting their various stuffs. But I have this hankering to make a border simply of different yellows and browns.

My border would involve all those yellows, but be spiked first with *Echinacea purpurea*, a stout, cone-centred daisy 2ft-3ft tall. Its attraction in good forms is the contrast of orange-brown cone with glowing, pinkish-mauve, almost liverish petals. No one walks past this one unless they are immune to large daisies.

I would also want to use the red-bronze of heleniums as well as their yellows. *H.* 'Pumilum Magnificum' is only 30in high, but a glorious deep yellow in its central boss and radiating petals, which are deeply notched at the edge giving the whole flower a fringed appearance. 'Crimson Beauty' is mahogany brown, earlier but similar to 'Moerheim Beauty', in which the central boss is brown and almost, as the flower ages, spherical.

I am always reluctant to dead-head them, but it is worth it at first to improve the flowers which appear later on. The same is true of the giant yellow scabious cephalaria, earlier in the year. The dead-heads of the first flowers may detract from the later ones, but the last dead-heads, once the petals have dropped, are an attraction in themselves for a few weeks.

The daisies with no place in my scheme will be *Anthemis tinctoria* and its varieties. Generous of flower they may be, but they are too early and leave a poor-looking hole by the time the late daisies are getting into gear. Annual sunflowers, on the other hand, are fine in late summer, and there are so many to choose from now. No longer are there just the heavy-headed goliaths grown by children. There are bronzes and near-reds, and they flower anywhere from knee to head high, some with single heads and short stalks for picking, some with several heads to extend the season. Look out for 'Velvet Queen' and 'Prado Red'.

JIRI LOUN

Rudbeckia 'Goldsturm' is the brassiest of yellows for borders

I should like to try them in my border alongside the grower Thomson & Morgan's *Amaranthus cruentus* 'Golden Giant', an annual "prince's feather" which grows to about 3ft high and carries panicles of warm brown, millet-like flowers over a long season.

Back to the daisies. There will be room in my garden for *Heliopsis* 'Light of Loddon', a good open-centred daisy, with neat rows of pointed, overlapping petals and a broad but gently cone-shaped disc at the centre. It looks like a small sunflower. The leaves of heliopsis are coarse and dreary, but can be hidden by better plants.

Then I would add *Coreopsis* 'Cutting Gold', whose flowers are only a couple of inches across but have, for a daisy, relatively funnel-shaped flowers, and would bring variety to the faces on display. Too many clumps of daisies, however, can pall, and some strong horizontals and verticals in the border would be beneficial. I would plant *Veratrum nigrum* as an edge-of-border incident, where you could get close to see the tiny maroon-black flowers stacked up and down the length of the flower spike. There would be some towering primrose candelabra of *Verbascum olympicum* here and there at the back to wave in the wind. I would also use columns of the dark-leafed form of common fennel, too.

A horizontal element might come from the tall but flat-headed *Achillea* 'Coronation Gold' and *Solidaster* 'Lemore'. If the border were to be predominantly yellow it would be a good idea to weave in seams of different tones of yellow, as well as different textures.

I always enjoy the bright lemon yellow petals and green nose cones of *Rudbeckia* 'Herbstsonne', which can reach 6ft tall, and I would have the perennial sunflower *Helianthus* 'Limelight' for its gentler shade. The shorter black-eyed *Rudbeckia* 'Goldsturm' has a black cone and is the brassiest of yellows for the front of a border.

What is it about these yellow daisies which makes them need regular replanting? Left alone to their own devices, most of them soon become congested and their self-supporting qualities fade along with the size and number of the flowers. I should have all the daisies in this border, and the solidaster, on a two or three-cycle, dividing and replanting them in newly enriched soil in March to keep them really fresh.

Late-summer borders may be rich in end-of-year harvest colours, but that is all the more reason for keeping the plants fresh and healthy. Never mind the work; think of the results.

STEPHEN ANDERTON

● *Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry, Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ (01844 339226): open weekdays 10am-5.30pm, Sat-Sun 6pm. Winter until 5pm.*

● *Forde Abbey, Chard, Dorset, TA20 4LU (01460 220231); is open daily 10am-4.30pm all year.*

WEEKEND TIPS

- ■ *Keep greenhouses well ventilated to reduce the risk of mildew. Clear up all fallen leaves which may encourage fungal infections.*
- ■ *Pot-up spring bulbs, such as narcissi, hyacinths and crocuses. Keep the bulbs cool or plunge them in a cold frame. They should be just moist.*
- ■ *Plant new heathers and remove for planting elsewhere any layers of established plants of* Erica carnea *and* calluna.
- ■ *Plant spring cabbages, kale and savoys.*
- ■ *Remove the worst broad-leafed weeds from newly seeded lawns by hand; it is too soon to use selective weedkillers.*

NEIL JOY

Echinacea purpurea 'Bressingham' looks wonderful when mixed with contrasting colours

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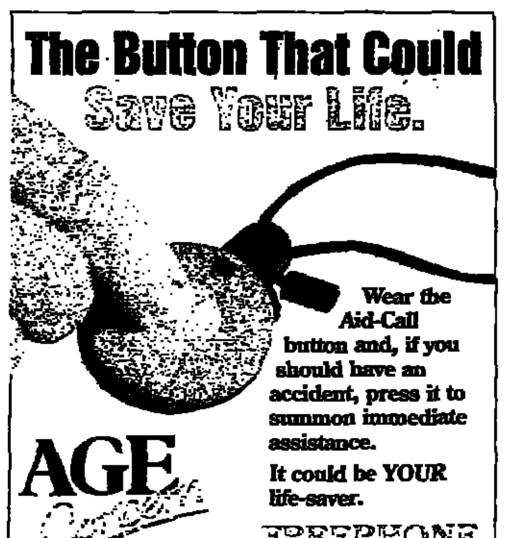
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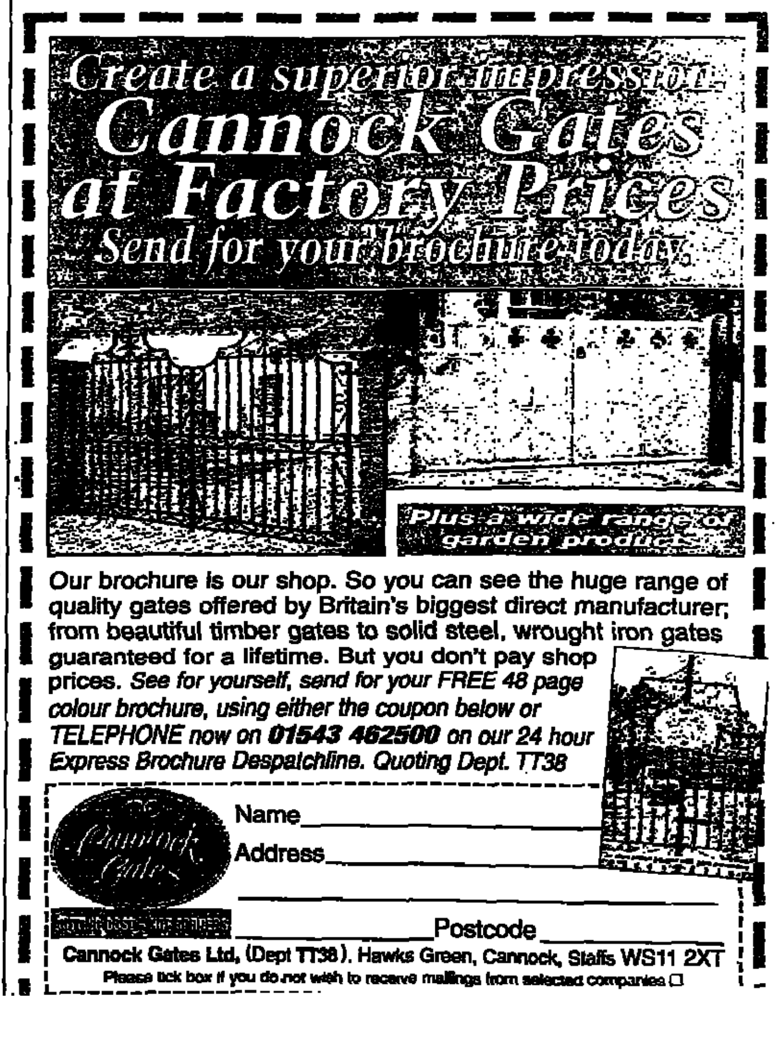
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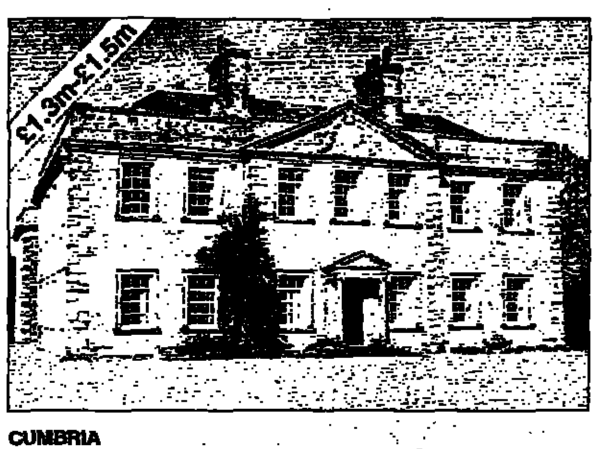
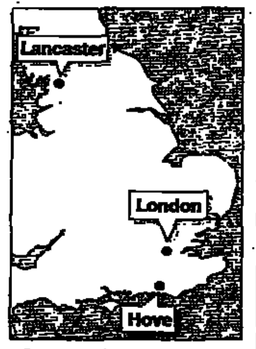


CUMBRIA
Burrow Hall Estate, near Lancaster. Grade I listed country house in 207 acres (including a tenanted farm of 145 acres), and 510 yards of salmon and seatrout fishing on the river Lune. Five bedrooms, three bathrooms, four reception rooms and kitchen. Two staff flats. About £1.3m-£1.5m (Savills and Davis & Bowring, 01904 620731).

EAST SUSSEX
Whitton Place, Tongdean Road, Hove. Regency-style house in exotic gardens, with a swimming pool, summer house, whirlpool bath house, vast illuminated Koi carp pool, pagoda and decked terrace. Five bedroom suites (one with Turkish bath, sauna and fitness room), three staff bedrooms, four reception rooms and kitchen/breakfast room. From £1m to £1.5m (Hamptons, 0171-493 8222).



LONDON
8 St Leonards Terrace, Chelsea, SW3. Terraced period house with rear garden and access to the grounds of Burton Court and the Royal Hospital. Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, shower-room, drawing room, library, dining room, family room, kitchen, cloakroom and conservatory. About £1.5m (John D. Wood, 0171-352 1484).

CHERYL TAYLOR

Let a manager take the pain

Rachel Kelly

on how project experts guide house building or restoration

NEWSTEAM

Richard and Julie Taylor go over the specifications of their new house in Northumberland with Geoffrey Purves, who acted as project manager

Elton John uses them. And so, increasingly, do others. Fed up with the hassle of restoring a house and coordinating builders, decorators, plumbers and electricians, they are hiring project managers to do it for them.

Such managers are no longer just for the rich. John used them to reconstruct a 1704 orangery, but the rest of us could use them for, say, a kitchen extension.

Last spring, APS Private Clients, a firm with a long experience of managing commercial projects, decided to provide the same service for homeowners. Laurie Atkinson, a director, says: "In a world of duel incomes, and where time is money, we realised that there was a big demand for a firm which would take charge of all aspects of moving into and restoring a house. Busy people, especially those with young families, don't have the time to do the work."

The firm claims to tackle every aspect of a move or renovation, dealing with planners, awkward neighbours and even English Heritage, the conservation quango, if need be. Typically, it will organise anything from foundations to air-conditioning, sanitary fittings to security, ironmongery to landscaping. It charges a commission of 7.5-10 per cent on the budget, but reckons to hand on savings by buying materials at cost.

Other management firms concentrate on providing services only for the rich. Simon Jones, the managing director of Gardiner and Theobald Management Services, says: "We have been looking after the private property of individuals worldwide for many years. These are often people with enormous personal wealth, who may own up to 200 properties. We have project managers who are on call 24 hours a day, because these clients demand a total service. They also rely on our complete discretion."

Many architects double as project managers. The Geoffrey Purves Partnership in Newcastle-upon-Tyne has designed a number of houses, mostly in the North. Mr Purves says that building a house doesn't need the "separate specialism" of a project manager. "A competent architect offers the same services on a small building."

The Purves partnership does not work within any one particular architectural style. Mr Purves says it is "seeking to provide good architecture". It does not charge a fixed commission, but agrees a fee for each project with the client.

Another firm of architects which offers project management as part of its services is the John S. Bonnington Partnership in St Albans, Hertfordshire. It designs few private houses, but will take on large houses for the wealthy. It has recently built a multimillion pound house in Bishop's Avenue, north London.

Mr Bonnington says that to hire a large partnership like his for a small house would be expensive. Its fees depend on the size of the project. For a big development, its commission can be as small as 5 per cent, but for a £100,000 house it would rise to at least 10 per cent. This fee includes most of the services project managers offer. The client need only liaise with the architects, who hire and deal with all the contractors, and can even arrange for foreign specialist craftsmen to come and work on the building.

But there are some areas of a development that project managers are involved in which architects do not deal with. For example, APS will find a client land to build on or an existing building to redevelop, and can arrange the purchase. It also takes responsibility for solving party-wall disputes, a common problem in cities.

Mr Atkinson says APS offers a service that most architects used to but few do now. He calls it "a full, orchestrated, hands-on looking after of the client's interest".

● *APS Private Clients, 18 William Street, London EC4 (0171-815 0626). Geoffrey Purves Partnership, 8 North Terrace, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE2 4AD (0191-232 0424). John S. Bonnington Partnership, Tyttenhanger House, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL4 0PG (01727 823633).*

A WEIGHT OFF YOUR MIND

RICHARD and Julie Taylor used the Geoffrey Purves Partnership as project manager to design their house, Halcyon Days, in Swarland, Northumberland (above), to their own specifications. Mr Taylor describes it as "in a modern style with a cottage theme".

The main feature of the four-bedroom house is a dramatic roof which slopes all the way from the top of the building, over the the garage and to ground level. It was the Taylor's idea, which Mr Purves incorporated in the plans. Mr Taylor says it "makes the house unique".

The Taylors chose the Purves partnership because they wanted an architect who could also attend to all the details of its building. Mr Taylor's job as a sales manager involves travelling all over the world, so it was impossible for him to oversee building work.

Mr Purves approached various building firms about the house and took tenders for the job of building it. Then he and the Taylors decided which builder to employ. Mr Purves took responsibility for the entire project, except the bathroom and kitchen fittings, until the front-door keys were handed over.

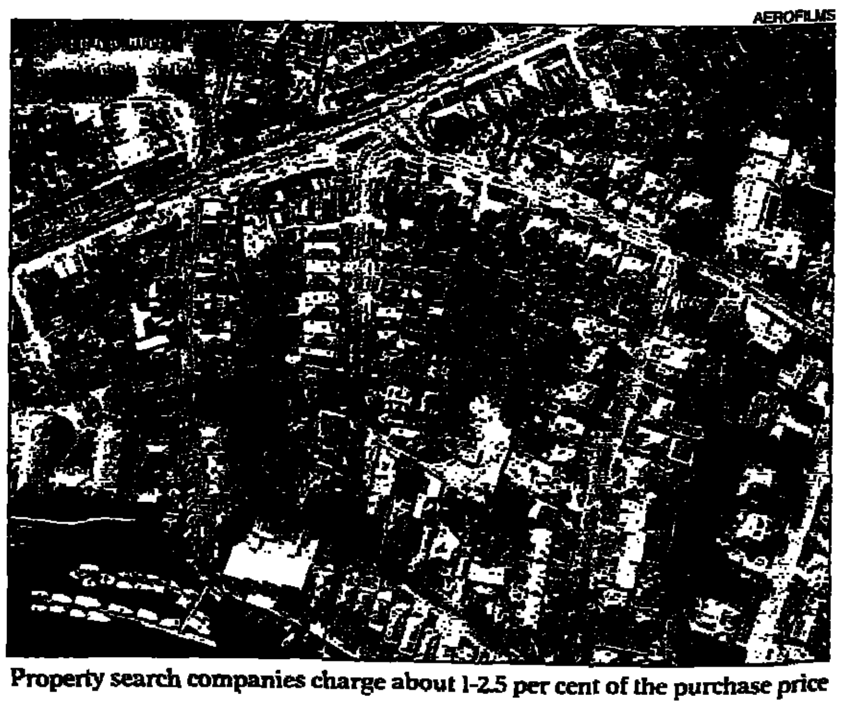
Mr Taylor was delighted with the result. But not all the problems were taken from his shoulders. He and his wife still had to attend a few site meetings, though not as many as would be usual in the building a new house.

As far as Mr Taylor is concerned, "it would be unrealistic to say that when you have a house built to your own specifications, it's without pain and disappointment". But he says that he and his wife are "very satisfied with the final outcome".

JUSTIN HUGGLER

Can't go house-hunting? **Cheryl Taylor** knows the agents who can

Get ahead in the buying stakes


AEROFILMS

Property search companies charge about 1-2.5 per cent of the purchase price

As the housing market continues to improve and competition for houses and flats in prime locations hots up, more buyers are turning to professional property seekers. There are about 250 of these house-hunters or relocation agents in Britain, and business is booming.

Buying agents, relocation or property search companies do not come cheap. They charge about 1-2.5 per cent of the purchase price, plus an initial registration fee of up to £2,500. However, most claim they can end up saving the buyer money on the purchase price, even though this could result in their earning less, pro rata.

In return, they draw up a shortlist of suitable properties for buyers to view, some of which may never formally come on the market. The buying agents often hear of houses that owners want to sell but are reluctant to advertise on the open market, particularly if the sale is forced by debt or divorce. Their services can also include carrying out searches on the property, dealing with solicitors, arranging surveys and furniture removals.

Because the buying agents — who are often former estate agents — have a good knowledge of area sale prices, they can advise clients on how much to offer. They can also negotiate with the vendor's estate agent to get the lowest possible price. And, because the purchaser has to pay an upfront retainer to a buying agent, the estate agent knows he is dealing with a serious buyer who is likely to proceed with the deal.

The longest established agency, Property Vision, which was set up 13 years ago by Charles Ellingworth and William Gething, specialises in finding country houses and London investment properties for those with more than £500,000 to spend in the country, or £250,000-plus in the capital.

Property Vision charges a retainer of £1,500 in London, £2,500 in the country and then 2.5 per cent of the purchase price, from which the retainer is deducted. It supplies prospective purchasers with a list of pros and cons on shortlisted houses, alerting them to potential pitfalls, and will negotiate on their behalf to get the lowest prices.

Stacks Relocation, established in 1984 by Paul Greenwood in Wiltshire, has 13 offices across England, Scotland and Wales. It charges a £500 registration fee and then 1.5 per cent of the purchase price, with a minimum fee of £2,000. The company will also search for rented accommodation for an upfront fee of £500 and 10 per cent of the annual rent, from which the initial fee is deducted.

County Homesearch, set up six years ago by Jonathan Haward in Cornwall, has 18 offices in England and Scotland. It will look for a *pied-à-terre* in London, a semi in suburbia, a country cottage or an estate in the shires. The company charges a £300 registration fee (£500 in London) and 1.5 per cent commission on the purchase price or 15 per cent of the amount saved between the asking price and the selling price, depending on which is greater.

Some leading London estate agents, such as Knight Frank and Savills, also offer a property buying service. Jonathan Harington, of Knight Frank's Ultimate Property Buying Service, will buy anything from a bedsit in Belgravia to a villa in the south of France or a sporting estate in Scotland in return for an upfront fee of £2,500 and 2.5 per cent of the sale price.

Justin Marking, Savills's buying agent, specialises in finding country houses and farms costing more than £800,000 in Hertfordshire, Hampshire, Berkshire and the Cotswolds. The company charges 1.5-2 per cent of the sale price.

● *Property Vision, 0171-823 8388. Stacks Relocation, 01666 860523. County Homesearch, 01872 223349. Knight Frank, 0171-629 8171. Savills, 0171-499 8644*

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PRIMROSE HILL NW1 Sunny lower ground flr flat, 2 bed, 2 bath, with pvt patio off lge recep, own front door, share freehold £190,000. 0171 586 9507

PUTNEY, Danemere Place, Danemere Street. Quality new development of 3 & 4 bedroom Townhouses by Berkeley Homes close to River. Prices £235,000-£290,000. Show House open 7 days a week 10.00-5.00. Joint Agents, Kinleigh & Allen Briegel 0181 785 0411 for details.

REGENTS PK NW1 2 bed 2 bath apt, prime Nash Crown Terrace + underground pking £199,995 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

REGENTS PK NW1 Exc 2 bd mansion flat close park £124,995 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

SUNDERLAND TERRACE 1 bed 1st floor south facing balcony flat in period conversion £105,000 L/hold Westbourne Est. 0171 727 8612

UPPER MALL 4 Storey Vic hse. Views over river. 5 Beds, orig features, self cont flt £318,000 Rolfe East 0181 995 2442

W1 Penthouse close Marylebone High St. Aprox 1,800 sq ft, 3 beds, 3 baths, lge recep, study. share F/H. 0171 402 5461

YORK STREET W1 Large 4 bed 2 bath period flat close Baker Street offers on £259,950 Sandfords 0171 723 9988

SOUTH OF THE THAMES

ROEHAMPTON

Spacious South facing flat in prestige development with outstanding views over landscaped gardens and the famous Roehampton Club golf course. 3/4 bedrooms 2 reception rooms. 2 bathrooms. Cloakroom with W C. Cent. Heat. Sunny balcony terrace. Full Porterage. Garages. £235,000. Owner.

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Two newly built Freehold houses close to the Kings Road
ENTRANCE HALL: DOUBLE RECEPTION: FULLY FITTED KITCHEN: 3 BEDROOMS: 2 BATHROOMS (1 EN-SUITE): EN-SUITE SHOWER ROOM: PATIO: ROOF TERRACE.

Freehold £350,000 Each

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SUPERB VICTORIAN HOUSE

Situated a few minutes from East Putney tube is this stylish 4 storey semi-detached Victorian house. With over 2700 Sq. Ft. of space and a double length garage, the property features a fully walled landscaped garden. Elegantly modernised, this superb house is ideal for entertainment with its spacious reception areas over 2 whole floors.

Master Bed suite with Dressing area and ensuite bath, 3-4 further beds, family bath, double drawing room, sitting room, dining room, small conservatory, utility, cloaks, superb kitchen/breakfast with AGA, study/Bed 5, private rear garden, double garage. All beautifully presented with many original features.

Guide: £400,000
Offers invited:
0181 874 2338 (eve)
0171 580 3636 (day)

BATTERSEA PARK

Townhouse. 4 beds (3 dbl. 1 sgl). 2 bths (1 e/s). lge s/rm, gdn, conservatory. Quiet st., ideal family residence. £340k.
Tel: 01483 423003 (office)/
0171 585 0883 (eves)
Ref: PCAC

BELGRAVE HALL KENNINGTON

2 double bedroom luxury flat in unique Grade II listed Victorian conversion. High ceilings, mezzanine floor, fully fitted kitchen, large balcony, porter. West End 10 minutes.
£125,000
0171 820 8334
or
0171 413 4129

PUTNEY Lge character family hse 4/5 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit, 60' gdn. £335,000. Today 0973 232997 then 0181-788 8822

SE5 decorated 2 bedroom semi det conv flat opp pk. 10 mins Oval. FF kit, bthrm, recap, lge balc, GCH, alarm, entryph, gd pkg. Avail 23rd Sept. Many items incl. Quick sale £74,995, Freehold. Tel: 0171 228 4510

SE20 PENGE charming 1840s listed dbl fronted EOT almshouse. 2 beds. Immaculate, gch, 50ft garden, near high street. 2 Rlys £89,000 0181 6590600.

WANDSWORTH COMMON SW17 Dble gge + secluded SW gdn at rear; 2 Receps; 3 dble beds; 2 baths(1e/s); lge kit/bfast cllrm £186,000 F/H. 0181 6729729.

BELGRAVIA

EATON SQUARE, SW1. Exclusive situation, executive apartment, 3 bed, 2 recps, 2 bath, overlooking sq. Light double aspect, short lease. 0171 235 1048.

ELIZABETH STREET SW1. Situated in the heart of Belgravia this is a first and second floor 2 bedroom flat of approximately 924 sq ft. 2 Bedrooms, Reception Room, Bathroom, Kitchen (to be fitted by purchaser) Price £245,000. 75 year lease. Friend & Falcke (0171) 730 0054.

SW1. EATON SQ. Basement self contained double bed flat, fully equipped, short let £175pw. 0171 245 1033.

CITY & WEST END

BARBICAN/CITY September list of flats from £57,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

NEW CONVERSION Last remaining flat in new conv sth of Fleet St. 2 beds. £165,000. Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

RIVER VIEWS EC4 1st & 6th flr 1 bed flats in portered blk. roof terrace. £95,000 each Frank Harris & Co 0171 600 7000

DOCKLANDS

E14

A raised ground floor apartment set in private residential development within ¼ mile of DLR Station & Greenwich foot tunnel.
2 bedrooms, reception with balcony, fitted kitchen, bathroom.
Private rear garden, secure underground parking.
£79,995
Alex Neil
0171 537 9859.

SHAD THAMES 1 bed apt close restaurants & access city, quick sale reqd owner abroad. Offers on £89,995. 0171 480 6815 T

HAMPSTEAD

HAMPSTEAD Village - Newly refurb 3 bd flt, 4/F (lift) in prestige block close to Tube stn. Dble Recep, Dining, FF kit, 2 bths (1 enste). L/H 72yrs £275,000. 0973 675596 24hrs

SWISS COTTAGE Maisonette 4 bed, 2 bath en-suite, lounge, dining room, study, TV room, kitchen, WC. For long let unfurnished. Avail 1st Oct. £700pw. 0171 7223768.

KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

COLLINGHAM GARDENS

SW5. Large 2 bed b/ment, direct access garden, long lease, private sale.
£184,500.
Tel: 0171 2299457.

HOLLAND PARK W14

Superb newly refurbished 3 bed mansion flat, 2 receps, 2 baths, FF kitchen, utility rm, portered block, entryphone, lift, communal CH, 999 year lease. Quiet location, moments from the park.
£335,000, private sale.
0171 588 4500 (office)

WANTED

South Kensington / Chelsea.
Spacious flat. 2 double bedrooms - the main bedroom to be approximately 12ft X 12ft; reception room ideally 18ft X 12ft; kitchen (not a galley kitchen).
1st floor or above. Roof terrace / outside space (not essential).
Offering up to £350,00.
Please Reply to Box No 8817

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£115,000.
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0860 318618

CHANEY Row 18c listed house. Panelling, stone fire places, oak/flagstone floors. Acc over 4 floors, 3 beds, 3 recps, paved yd £565,000 f/h. 0171 6223609.

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KENSINGTON & CHELSEA

KENS W8 3bed top flr flat, lift, views over Ken Green, porter. Share Freehold £366,000. Aaron & Lewis 0171 244 9911c, 0171 244 9838f

LADBROKE GROVE W10 3rd floor 2 bed conversion lge reception, kit/brek rm £118,000 Share of Freehold Westbourne Estates. 0171 727 8612

NAPIER PLACE W14 a F/H hse in quiet location off High St Ken 3 beds 2 baths good sized recep rooms lge roof terr. £375,000 0171 629 6336/ 0973 220707

PHILLIMORE ESTATE Newly mod 2 dble bed gdn flat bright spacious recep 1½ baths, terrace £239,500 L/hold Westbourne Est. 0171 727 8612

SOUTH KEN, SW7 Adj Onslow Gdns. 3400 sq ft unmod 5 storey stucco fronted hse + gdn. £1.1m 01753 891240/0956 263894.

SW10 Outstanding newly refurb 2 bed apt 2 bth Maple flrs patio £320,000 L/H 0171 221 9044

KNIGHTSBRIDGE

KNIGHTSBRIDGE 1 bed, large recep, 24hr prtr, opp Harrods, 7th flr, lift, superb views, super decor, Jacuzzi. 54yr lease £195,000. 0171 245 6829

NOTTING HILL

HIGHLEVER ROAD Conservation Area, W10. Excellent condition 5 bed house, new oak kitchen, conservatory, pretty gardens £297,000. 0181 960 3067.

LADBROKE GROVE 2 dble bed Vict conv high ceilings needs mod £90,000 0171 221 9044

NOTTING HILL GATE F/H listed terr. house, 4 storeys, sep 1 bd patio flt. Huge rf terr., lge light rms, working marble f/places. £375k. 0171 221 4288.

RICHMOND & KINGSTON

SURBITION COURT

Ground floor 2 bed apt in prestigious character courtyard setting. 2 mins from river, Waterloo 16 mins. V long lease + F'hold. No chain. £98,500.
Eves/W'End
0181 3997033

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Unique 1880's detached family home 7 bed, 4 reception, 2 bath 2 wc. beautiful drawing room. All period features restored, stained glass, marble floors. Garden to 3 sides. Garage. Close to good schools, theatres, golf courses, river and parks. Buses and BR short walk. Great neighbours! For sale again due to dreamer. Offers on £625K.
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Quiet rd to River Thames. Det, mod, architect-designed house overlooking playing fields. Light, dual-aspect lnge/din. rm, featuring Adam style fireplace with marble surround. Well fit. kn, 2 dbl bdrms, bthrm, integral gge. 65' gdn, patio. Excel. dec. order. £215,000.
CHESTERTONS
0181 748 8833

BERKSHIRE

ETON Riverside 2 bed ground floor apart, dbl gge, gardens to Thames, views to Windsor Castle, mooring avail. £129,950. Details 01734 845784

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CORNWALL

ST MAWES. Large sea front house in this famous upmarket resort. Superb water & headland views. Presently run as hotel from which owners retiring to cottage. Readily arranged as prestigious dwelling. £250,000 H Tiddy & Sons 01326 270212.

COTSWOLDS

BROADWELL. Listed Cotswold cottage overlooking village green. Hall, din rm, drawg rm, kit, utility, cloakrm, conserv, study, 3 beds, 2 bathrms. Galleried landing, office, garden, garage. £230,000 Butler Sherborn (01451) 830731.

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Sherborne & Yeovil 3 miles.
Shops, schools and main Exeter - Waterloo line only 5 minutes drive.
4 beds, 3 receps, kit, 2 baths.
Secluded gardens.
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Details: Humberts Sherborne Office (01935) 812323

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LISTED Farmhouse, 3 acres next riding sch. Good outbuildings. 5 beds. £275k. 01376 343257

RURAL ESSEX- Magnificent 6/7 bed exec. home, mature 3/4 acre, 3 recep, 3 bths, conserv, F/F Kit. DBL GGE, 15 mins BR, NHBC £295,000. 0802 943831.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Detached 4/5 bed house, surrounded by countryside set in 2 acres, 3 reception rooms, kitchen/brek room, utility, conservatory, 39ft swimming pool, 1 double garage. 1 six car garage/stables. Seperate 1 bed bungalow, fully contained. Close to A1m. rail king's cross, 30mins. £339,000ono.
Tel: 01438 352105

ISLE OF WIGHT

SPACIOUS 3 bed character apmnt with sea glimpses; close to beach & shops; ideal centre for sailing, walking, cycling. £64,000 ono; 01983 873671.

KENT

COSY Tudor cottage, small sunny garden. Pretty weald village. Charing cross 1hr. Euro Star stn 20mins. 3 beds. £98,500. Tel: 01580 291403.

KENT

DETACHED Period cottage 300yrs delightful rural loc. 1/4 acr, 3 bed, 2 recpt, lge gge/wshop. Headcorn St 1m, quick sale, no chain. £140K. 01622 890449.

FOLKESTONE The Leas. A beautifully appointed south/west facing 1st floor 3 bedroomed luxury apartment with in a fine Grade II Listed building, stunning sea views (approx 1,431 sq ft). Channel Tunnel 2½ miles, Ashford International 12 miles. £148,000. Lawrence & Co. Tel 01303 264022. Fax 01303 260063

SMARDEN Listed timber framed village house with Georgian origins on 3 floors. 5 receptions, 7 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Small garden. £270,000. Lane Fox 01732 459900

THURNHAM Nr Maidstone Oast Conversion nr Pilgrims Way with magnificent views, 4 beds, 2 baths, lounge, dining rm, fitted kit, utility, w.c. dble gge, g/c.h. gdns & land appx 0.45 acre, £225,000 Owlquest Ltd 01622 817999 (office) 01622 832577 (eves & wkends)

YELSTEAD Nr Maidstone Superb new bungalow under construction on 3/4 acre in area of outstanding natural beauty. 2,500 sq ft, 4 beds, 3 baths, lounge, d.r. kit, utility, wc / cloaks, vast dble gge, v. high spec. £255,000 Owlquest Ltd 01622 817999 (office) 01622 832577 (eve & wknds)

NORFOLK

HARLESTON - Secluded det hse in gdns, clse to twn cntr, 6 bdrms (3 ens), 3 recep, 2 cnsrvtr, dble gge, htd pool £180,000 Tel: 01379 852950/852873

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COTTESBROOKE Grange. 2 elegant aparts in principal part of early Victorian manor. Extensive landscaped grounds, in centre of conservation village facing 13 cent church adjoining the parkland of Cottesbrooke Hall (House & Gardens May '96). Perfect weekend retreats. Phone 0171 405 1176/01933 270287 Work or 01604 505663 Eve/wkend.

NORTHANTS Georgian village house in 1 acre. 3 Rec. 5/6 beds. 4 bath / showers. Ground floor flat. 3 garages. Garden, swim pool. £295,000. 01604 32991.

STYLISH Barn conversion, 9 beds, 6 baths, French farmhouse kitchen, Laundry, Main Hall, Butlers pantry. £340,000. 01295 711224 Nr Silverstone

OXFORDSHIRE

AYNHO.4 bed det hse, 20ft sitting rm & kt, 20ft kit, util, dining hall, clk, 4 beds (1 ensuite), balcony, dble gge £139,950. 01869 810345/01869 347093.

SCOTLAND

IDYLLIC HIGHLAND COTTAGE
Lovely setting. Oil heating, 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception, secluded, 1½ miles Tomintoul, 28 miles Aviemore.
£60,000.
Tel: 01807 580468

AUCHTERARDER Superior bungalow nr Gleneagles. 3 bedrms, bathrm, shower rm, 3 receps, kitchen, utility, garage, lge gdn. £140,000+. 01738 636300

CRAIL BY ST ANDREWS Charming Category 'A' Listed hse in Crail. 2 Recep, Study, Kitchen, Sitting Rm/Bed, 2 Further Beds, 2 Bath. 01334-657111.

DELIGHTFUL cottage in idyllic countryside nr Balmoral castle, golf, fish. Spac o/plan, 2 dbl bed, gdn. 0181 995 8203(d) 0956 497555. £74,000.

EDINBURGH Apt. in Lux development 2 bedrooms (1 en suite). All curtains & carpets. Leisure complex. £88,000 Tel:0131 557 8080 (ref Fetes)

SOMERSET

ELEGANT, Light, 4-bed 17c cottage, Blackdown hills 9 miles sth of Taunton. Charming secluded garden, magnificent views. £157,500. 0171 352 3110.

FORMER sml gdn cntre. Exc sml spec nursery. Lge gnhse & frames intact. Also charming 3 bed house. Offers £160,000+ for both. 01935 21119

MENDIP HILLS Det cott, 4 bedrms, 2 bathrms, 2 receps, kit /b'fast, utility. 2.898 acres, stabling, menage, excellent riding. £225,000. 01934 934124

SUFFOLK

WOODBRIDGE AREA: Church Farm and Morley Farms, Hasketon. 122 acres for sale in upto 10 lots inc Lot 1 Farmhouse, Barn, Stables & Paddocks - 11.65 acres. Other lots 9 - 27 acres. Also Cottage let rent free for life to 66 yr old. Offers on 3rd Oct. R C Knight & Sons 01449 612384 24hrs

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CHARLWOOD 14C Manor house, 5 acres, 7 Dbl beds, 5 baths 3 a/s, 5 recep, pool. Beams high ceilings, Ingle nooks, annexe. 1 hour Victoria. All amenities 10 mins. £650,000 01293 863406

NR CHIDDINGFOLD. Set in the midst of a private golf course with membership by arrangement. Delightful Grade II listed attached cottage, reception with inglenook, kitchen/dining, 3 beds, 2 baths, pretty garden, garage. £195,000 Browns 01483 31166

WONERSH, 4 miles Guildford. Spacious family house in picturesque village. 4 beds, 2 baths, hall, 3 reception rooms, kit/b'fast, garage, attractive setting, lovely walled garden. 2/3 acre. Browns 01483 31166

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On South Downs,
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Further details Tel:
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CHICHESTER A fine modern townhouse within the City walls overlooking priory parks. 4 beds, 3 baths, sitting rm, dining, kit, clocks, patio gdn, pkg. £286,000. Details Neal Smith Partnership 01243 533532

COLGATE W Sussex Immaculate country house in 4 acres in AONB 5 beds, 5 rec, swim pool, tennis ct, stables OIRO £650,000. 01293 851208

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BORDER Stone farmhse 5 acres o'look River Teme. 4 beds e/s, shwr & bthrm, 2 rec, farmhse kit Aga + much more. Orig features £190k ono 01713282536

PEMBROKESHIRE Manor house in 6 acres. 7 bedrooms (all ensuite), 4 receptions, conservatory, full gas CH, outbuildings. £260,000. 0117 986 0868.

TENBY, Coastline of Pembrokeshire National Park, Stone Farm Buildings conversion to residential 6/14 units. Sea views, £150,000. Brochure Charles Birt & Co, Lock House, Tenby SA70 7AS. 01834 842204

WILTSHIRE

NR Warminster, Victorian home in pretty village loc. Private ctyard: 7 bds, 3 bths, 2 receps, lge kit & AGA, cellars, gdn/gge. £225,000. Tel: 01985 840658

YORKSHIRE

UPPER HOPTON W Yorks. Superior house, ¼ acre, new 1972, 7 beds, 4 baths, oak panel d/rm, Adam type ceilings & cornices. £225,000. 01924 494295.

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BOLT HOLE in the Lot. A comfortable furnished semi-detached house. No garden. £25,000. Details 01273 558684. Serious buyers only please.

BORDEAUX 1 hr airport. Lovely home with pool o'looking Dropt Valley. 50 acres inc 2 building plots, lake & huge stone barn. £150,000. Tel:01277 210723.

BRITTANY inland. St Malo/ Roscoff 75 mins. Traditional Breton fermette, renovated, 4 dble beds, 2 baths, etc. 2 lge barns, 1.5 hectares. Suit immediate living/ letting/ holidays. Private sale £57,500. Tel/Fax: 01825 750436

LLOYDS CASUALTY Lovingly restored old farmhouse nr Cotignac Var. 6 beds, pool. 2.2million FF. 0171 7271608.

NORMANDY bet Beauvais/ Gisors. 6,000 fenced sqm. prop, pvte road w/ gates, 6 rmd hse, 2 bths, 2 terrs, vast lawn w/wood. FF600,000. 0033 4481 2678

NR ROYAN Small renovated cottage pretty fishing village. £18,000 01326 562544

FRANCE

VINTNERY Provence, Ground 3,500 sqm. 3,100 sqm. Bldg: Wine storage sheds, bottling plant, 3 well appointed self-contained flats & 1 studio. Can be converted for other use. £860,000. Tel: 0033938885200 7-9pm, Serious offers only

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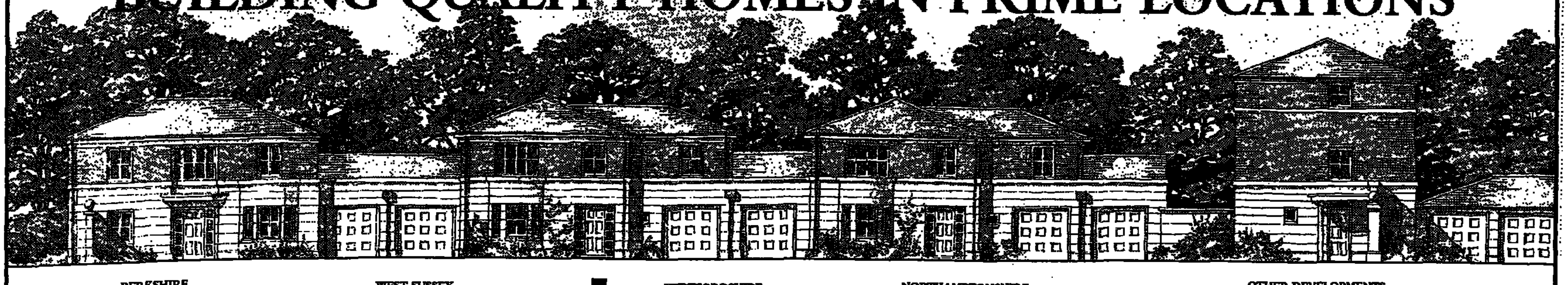

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How a derelict 18th-century country house in Daphne du Maurier country was brought back to life as 12 elegant homes

Phoenix mansion rises again

Maristow in Devon has possibly stood longer and closer to the brink of destruction than any other old country house in England. Three fires ravaged the building and two public inquiries were held to consider demolishing it. The result was that the house lost all sense of grace and charm.

Today Maristow is as pretty in pink as any villa in the Bay of Naples, and 12 houses have been created within the shell of the mansion and stables.

Maristow is the tenth and largest country house to be rescued from dereliction by the entrepreneur Kit Martin. This long list includes Elizabethan Dingley Hall in Northamptonshire, baronial Cullen House in Banffshire and, most recently, the vast Baroque pile, Burley-on-the-Hill in Rutland.

The new-look, redeveloped Maristow, now a storey less but looking just as grand

Peter Sutton, the Devon architect who has worked with Mr Martin on Maristow, says: "When I first saw the house I thought it was not restorable. It was unbelievably depressing and grey. Rain was dripping down in every part of the building, even though it had a corrugated iron roof. In the cellars were every kind of dry rot known to man: the specialists who treated it got so excited with what they found that they held a training weekend here."

Maristow appealed instantly to Mr Martin, because of its ravishing setting on the Tavey estuary north of Plymouth. The house looks over the river to hanging woods as lush and deep as any described in Daphne du Maurier's *Frenchman's Creek*, which was set in the area. There is no other building in sight, only the distant silhouette of Saltash bridge, which Brunel built across the Tamar.

The beauty of the Maristow estate, recognised as being in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, owes much to its long tenure by the Lopes family. Massey Lopes, MP, bought the estate in 1798; in 1805 he was created a baronet. The fourth baronet was created Baron Roborough of Maristow in 1938, just as history decreed that the family should never live in the house again. With the onset of the Second World War, the house was requisitioned, continuing in various institutional uses until after 1945 when the last tenants departed, leaving it a smouldering wreck.

As it was, Maristow's old stable block before being turned into homes

Sir Massey had bought the mid-18th century house built for the Heywood family, who had entertained George III and his family here, in 1789. In 1871, the Lopes commissioned Piers St Aubyn, whose family lived at St Michael's Mount, to build a large chapel with a soaring spire behind the house. This was faced in Plymouth limestone and was one part of the buildings to survive in good condition. Monthly services are still held there.

In 1907, the family called in Ernest George and his pupil and partner Alfred Yeates (the architects of Claridges) to enlarge and remodel the mansion, filling it with sumptuous Edwardian plasterwork and panelling.

Mr Martin, who acquired the house with 42 acres along the estuary last year, says: "Maristow has the best protected views I have been able to achieve anywhere.

"The new residents will own the parkland in front of the house and the walks through pleasure grounds on the hill behind. The Lopes Estate has agreed restrictive covenants on the woods on both sides of the river, so they will never be built on."

Mr Martin has restored the house and outbuildings, helped by a contribution towards the cost of reroofing from the Roborough family.

Maristow was in such a desperate state that the economics of restoring it was a problem. Mr Martin's solution has been to scrap the burnt-out attic storey, making his new houses two storeys (with flatroofs) rather than three. From below, you hardly notice the change. Pediments, parapets and roof balustrades have all been restored so that the silhouette is unaltered.

The interior was in a terrible state, Mr Martin says. "We were faced with the theft of a large number of fireplaces, many of the 18th-century stair bannisters, all the bookshelves in the library and all the Edwardian oak panelling in the dining room."

There are now 12 houses on the estate: six in the main building and six in the grounds. Two of the houses in the main building, Pediment House and the South Wing, have been completed, and three are available to buy from plan. There are four houses in the grounds left for sale, of which Dairy House and the Chapel House have been completed.

The West Stable House, which was on offer at £185,000, was the first to be sold. In the 1950s it had been crudely converted into a schoolroom but now has a large drawing room, lofty kitchen and a dining hall with the original stable stair. Upstairs are four bedrooms and three bathrooms.

The West Wing of the main house, which was on offer for £325,000, has a splendid drawing room with rich Edwardian plasterwork and four bedrooms and three bathrooms above. The South Wing, soon to be on offer at £375,000, contains the original main staircase and dining room.

The adjoining three-bedroom Pediment House will be on offer at £190,000, while the asking price for the Chapel House at the back is £160,000.

All the houses have their own garden or yard and are sold freehold, with restrictive covenants and access to the shared parts of the ground, which the residents will own and control through a management company.

Mr Martin might be forgiven for thinking that destiny had a hand in all this. Not only is the church dedicated to St Martin but Maristow was once called Martinstow. He has resisted the temptation to change the name.

Marcus Binney

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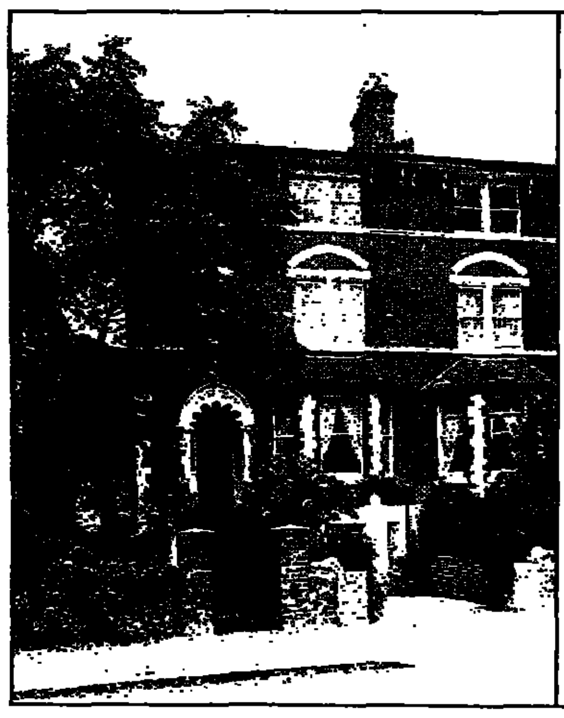
Scene of destruction, the mansion's old hall and staircase destroyed by neglect and damp



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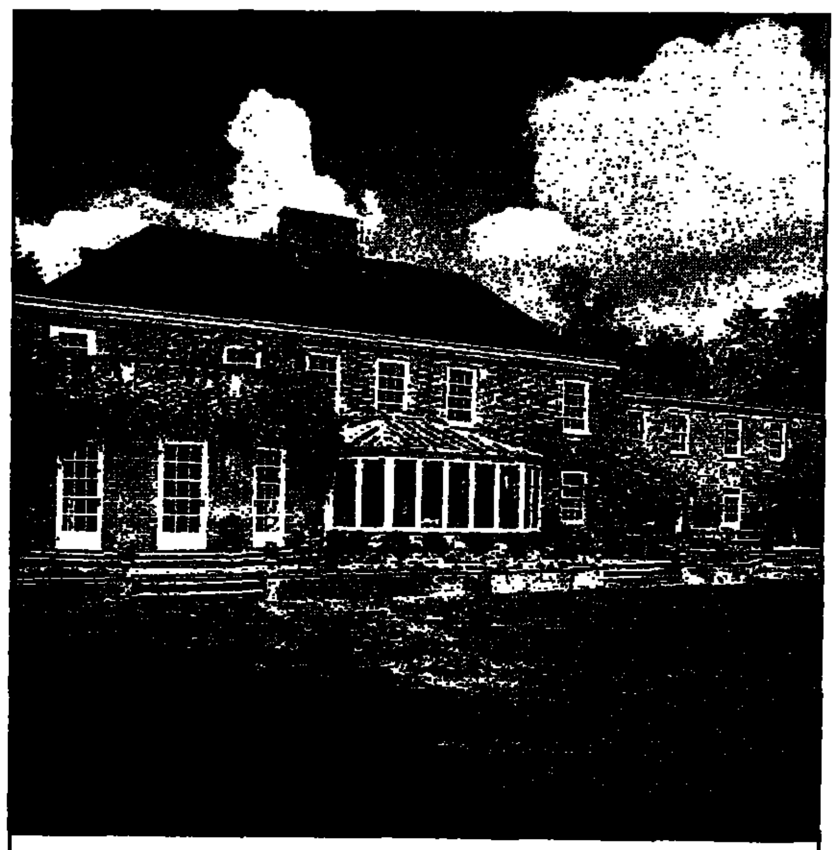

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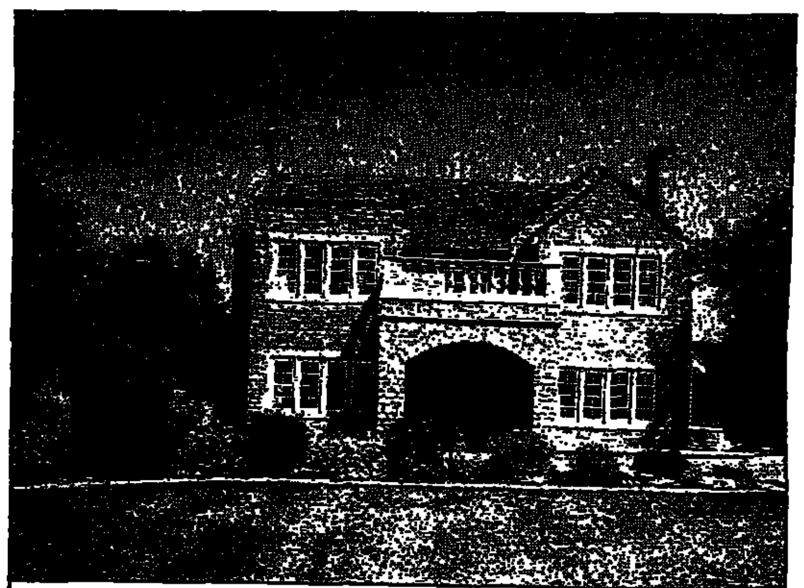

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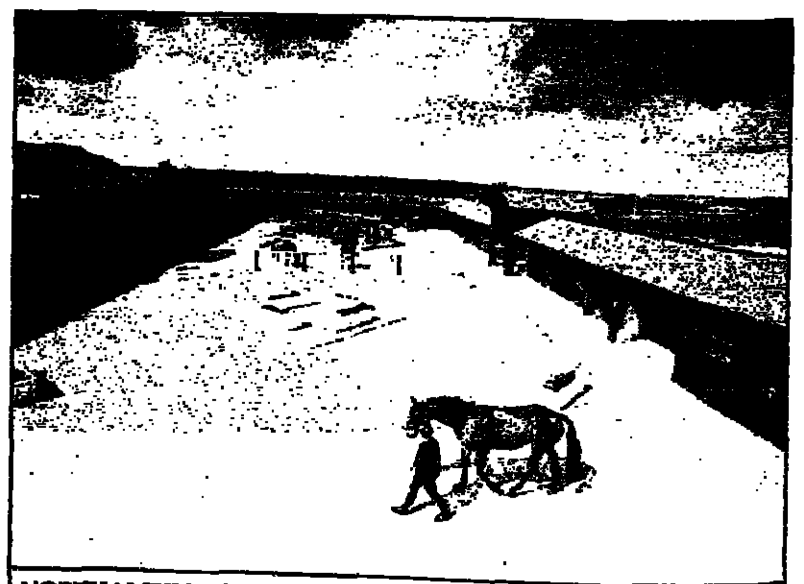

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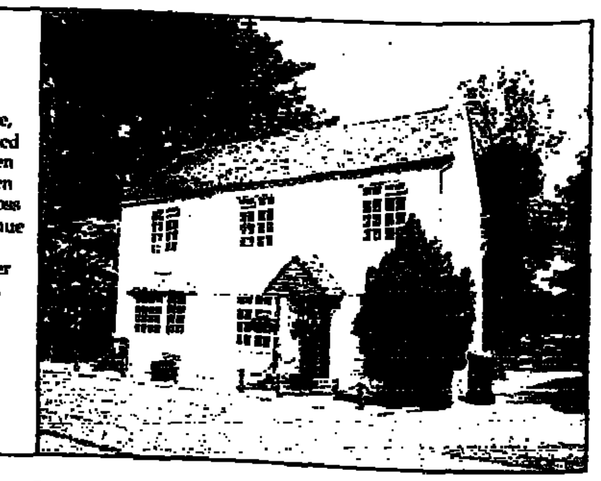

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ATTRACTIVE, professional, lively woman (40) with lots of interests seeks a tall (over 6') professional, good looking, energetic man with a great s.o.h., 35-45, for fun, travel, romance and (maybe) more. Box No 8906

ATTRACTIVE, educated, n/s, well travelled, kind/friendly young 38. Sth. based. Likes antiques, music, historic props/gdns, good food, films. WLTM interesting, honest man with GSOH. Box No 8828

BERKSHIRE/Surrey border. Vivacious, fun loving, attractive lady, early 40's, can laugh at herself, can you? If so read on. Seeks warm, caring gentleman for fun, friendship & possible romance. Photo & phone no. Box No 8804

BRIGHT, generous, cookery loving extrovert, with enquiring and passionate mind, seeks easy going prof n/s man, 45-55 to explore and enjoy our common ground and differences. (West Midlands) Box 8803

BRISTOL/ Wilts. Happy, independent lady, early 40's, enjoys outdoor activities and the arts. WLTM kind, n/s, country loving, professional man 40-55. Box No 8827

BRISTOL - Bath - Wells. Men, you will be amazed at how many beautiful ladies we have at Close Encounters. Call Free on 0800 141 141

CANTERBURY - Tunbridge Wells - Kent. Men, you will be amazed at how many beautiful ladies we have at close Encounters. Call Free on 0800 141 141

CAN you hold a conversation, tennis racquet and wine glass - not necessarily all at the same time; in your 50's, affectionate, kind, interested in travel. I am brunette, romantic, good listener, n/s, GSOH, Cornwall/Devon. Recent photo Box 8795

CARDIFF-Chepstow-South Wales Men, it's simple! One call equals many, eligible, attractive ladies. Call Close Encounters free 0800 141 141

CAREER minded, 34 year old blonde female, interests include sports, cars, travel WLTM prof male with similar interests. Home Counties Photo appreciated Reply Box No 8776

CELESTINE Prophecy & Africa changed this Oxon/London lady, 33. Loves country living, racing 911's, style, emotions, tennis, golf, creativity, nature, being different! Can you relate? Photo/letter = reply Box 8838

CHELTENHAM? Single, male, 50+? join our mixed group for wining, dining, fun. Admin £1 per month 01452 611537

CLASSY attractive lady, slim, young 44 WLTM tall refined sincere caring unpretentious professional gentleman for lasting relationship, possibly marriage, Cheshire, South Lancs. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8862

COSMOPOLITAN, music-loving. Surrey lady seeks man, 60's, to talk and listen to while walking, cooking, etc. Box No 8800

COUNTRY loving/living semi retired nurse, Public School, attractive, active slim brunette. GSOH, warm pleasing personality, wide interests including antiques, music, cooking and dogs. Solvent, n/s. London Club and visits, WLTM, warm, caring, civilised, educated active chap 60ish. Similar interests for fun meetings, maybe more. London/anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 8786

CUDDLY, attractive, privately educated, warm heart, honest, sincere, 5'7, enjoys country living/City pursuits, WLTM well educated/spoken, handsome, down to earth divorcee 45 - 55 only. GSOH, county background, anywhere. Photo please. Reply Box 8766

DOCTOR, 33, attractive, romantic, single WLTM intelligent and serious-minded prof man, 35-50 N/S, optimistic for lasting relationship and family life. Plse Reply to Box No 8863

ENCHANTING artistic Dutch lady, 6', 35, blonde, with strong personality, seeks tall mature, emotionally rich, exciting man for magic. Reply with photo and phone number to Box No 8721

ENERGETIC get up and go Somerset lady early 40's but looks and feels younger, loves travel, no ties, if you live locally and are of similar age and really genuine photo/phone Box 8794

EXCEPTIONALLY pretty, slim, elegant, 34 yr old female WLT make someone blissfully happy. Looking for intelligent, strong, solvent male to love & protect me & my two beautiful daughters. Cheshirebased Photo appreciated. Box No 8612

FUN loving attractive & active woman WLTM mature, fit, witty, intelligent, dishy male. Late 30's early 40's. Photo. London. Please Reply Box 8880

GREAT mind, spirit, looks - warm, funny, creative woman, 40, seeks amiable hunk with s.o.h. Please Reply to Box No 8879

HAPPY but lonely not desperate lively continental very attractive blonde 50s solvent lady many interests seeks companionship/partner Sussex/Surrey Photo please. Reply to Box No 8460

I AM an endangered species. - Petite, tactile, elegant, intelligent, 42, three young daughters. WLT be caught by well spoken, caring, successful, professional (40-48) & make a family together. London/South England. Photo, letter, tel no. please to Box No 8429

IN Search of "La Dolce Vita". Intelligent, funny, sensitive, sociable, feminine, pretty 32 year old seeks like minded man, 30-46. Recent photo please. Cheshire/Manchester. Please reply to Box No 8769

INTELLIGENT, educated, independent, practical man, 50-60, sought by artistic, gdn loving (London) similar. Box No 8847

JOIN me! Sensuous, sporty, independent outdoor-loving prof female grad seeks similar sociable, relaxing, tallish male (38+) to do things with. London/Cambs/50miles. Please Reply to Box No 8850

KNOCK Knock, who's there? I'm here with a lot of flair, 60ish, not run of the mill, not over the hill, with time to meet Gentleman, 58-65, similar outlook. Photo appreciated. Box No 8885

LINCOLNSHIRE - Derbyshire. Men, why call long distance? Close Encounters has hundreds of intelligent, attractive ladies. Call Vicky on 01522 682594

LIVELY slim attractive professional lady, fair hair, fit, elegant (5ft-6) seeks tall intelligent enthusiastic man (38-48) to share wine, food, antiques, countryside, theatre and more! South Bucks based. Please Reply to Box No 8842

LONDON: vivacious dressy 36 y.o. independent: own home etc wishes to meet successful romantic gent 40-60' GSOH seeking L/T relationship for social activities travel etc. Photo.Reply to Box No 8864

LONDON Intensely individual introductions in and around London Call Naomi or Mark at Close Encounters on 0171 289 3777

LOVELY educated tall 40s cuddly Surrey brunette many interests WLTM a genuine tall professional gentleman 45-60 for permanent relationship. Letter, phone no and photo please to Box No 8843

MANCHESTER - Wilmslow - Cheshire. Men, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible ladies. Call Neil at Close Encounters on 0161 835 4060

MOTOR BIKE mad Kentish Rose mid 40's, lovely, happy, gregarious and fun, looking for solvent, caring, cultured male, 40/50's to share thoughts, laughter, life and perhaps to ride off into the sunset! Home Counties/S E. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 8904

MY marvellous goddaughter: Stunning girl (30s), educated, loyal, enchanting, many friends/interests, discerning yet ready to marry; deserves eligible & wise gent. with cherishing nature (possibly mature widower with children). Photograph appreciated. Please reply to Box No 8907

OUTGOING, Herts based warm hearted 40 year old. Enjoys socialising, squash, entertaining friends, good food, wine and conversation. WLTM like minded man with GSOH 35-48. Letter and photo appreciated. Please reply to Box 8743

PRETTY, Chic, Public School cosmopolitan lady 40's seeks physician or educated interesting male. London.Box No 8853

PROFESSIONAL lady 49, enjoying keep fit, bridge, entertaining. kind, caring, honest & romantic seeks business/professional gentleman for lasting relationship. London/Home Counties. Photo/tel no please. Box 8608

ROMANTIC, tall, slim, elegant and attractive Widow, lively personality, cultured & country interests. WLTM a gentleman, tall, 55+ to share thoughts, laughs, happiness. Wilts/Glos/Oxon. Box No 8662

S. LAKES. Fell-walking, professional female, 34, also enjoys foreign travel, cinema, sport, nature, WLTM active man to share mint cake - GSOH essential. Plse Reply to Box No 8837

SALISBURY-Bournemouth-Dorset Men, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible ladies. Call Carin at Close Encounters on 01258 452344

SLIM, attractive, caring, educated female, 27 years. Enjoys countryside, travel, equestrianism, walking, dining. Seeks professional, cultured, genuine male, 27-37, n/s, with GSOH. South East. Please reply with photo to Box No 8788

SOME of the most attractive, eligible ladies seek their match and succeed through DINNERMATES. Relaxed social events and confidential introductions. Kent/S.E. 01892 524786

SOUTH WEST 50's, redhead, petite, attractive, sophisticated, intelligent. Theatre, dancing, music, travel, computers, novelist, antiques, gardening. Photo please. Box No 8844

SPIRITED brunette, 40s, WLTM, tall, fit, educated, worldly man who likes simple things in life. Dorset can & do travel. Prefer children to dogs! Have neither. Photo plse. Reply Box No 8705

STAFFORD - Wolverhampton. Men, why call long distance? Close Encounters has 100's of eligible, attractive ladies. Call Paul on 01543 255473

STRONG willed, seriously attractive lady (33), interested in travel, cars, good food, skiing and business, WLTM man of means with a good intellect, who enjoys the finer things of life and has that special something. Letter, photo & phone no. Box No 8756

STYLISH, professional, intelligent, London based female WLTM confident, music-loving (classical & rock) man, 40-60. Box No 8866

SURREY men 30-65 yrs required for our extensive ladies membership Call Mike at Close Encounters 01932 783165

TACTILE romantic, attractive, intelligent, mid 40's woman with VGSOH and zest for life seeks man of her own as sole mate, friend and lover. You must be 39-49, intelligent, caring, unattached, solvent, GSOH, like animals and not be afraid to hold hands in public or to share feelings, hopes and life. Children welcome, any age. Letter & photo to Box No 8762

TRAPPED in Ireland. Post-war babe in great condition (blonde, green-eyed, strict vegetarian, n/s - loves Champagne), seeks a special soul to enrich her being. Box No 8857

WE'RE Good Fun, attractive, intelligent, high achievers with a passion for work, but not boring. We like most things, someone to phone, caring, switching off, fun, trying anything new. Me never married, not a bunny boiler, happy on the shelf, don't want children. Slim, 5'5", 36 yrs, can turn heads (tuck knickers in skirt), happy to travel. Do we share the same needs and dreams? Photo and life CV. Box No 8845

WHAT about it? Are you a gentleman over 70 who would enjoy company for walks, meals and occasional outings? I am an energetic widow with many interests. London based. Please Reply to Box No 8889

WHAT the hell - I read them religiously. It's mornings like this one - the cat has displayed its latest hunting trophy under the bottom stair, I've found a moth in my morning coffee & no, I wasn't wearing slippers when I returned to said staircase. Yes - mornings like these when I realise just how much someone else has to offer! I've got the usual list of attributes: 36, 5'8", lots of strings of initials, N/S & GSOH, hair (blonde), independence, intelligence, good career, attractive & kind, great social life & no man. The most important thing about you is you love your work & are successful at it, are funny, intelligent, would like a girl friend & think you might like me. Some hair would be nice too. Photo please (returned) NorthWest. Reply to Box No.8628

WHY can't I meet, tall, articulate public school man, 60 - 70 West country, preferably widowed with an interest in fine arts, gardening, music, walking, happy and proud to be seen with a feminine slim, well spoken widow. Box No 8765

GAY, attractive, professional, feminine lady, 50's, residing West Country, seeks sole mate, lover, friend. Photo appreciated. Please reply Box No 8760

GENTLEMEN

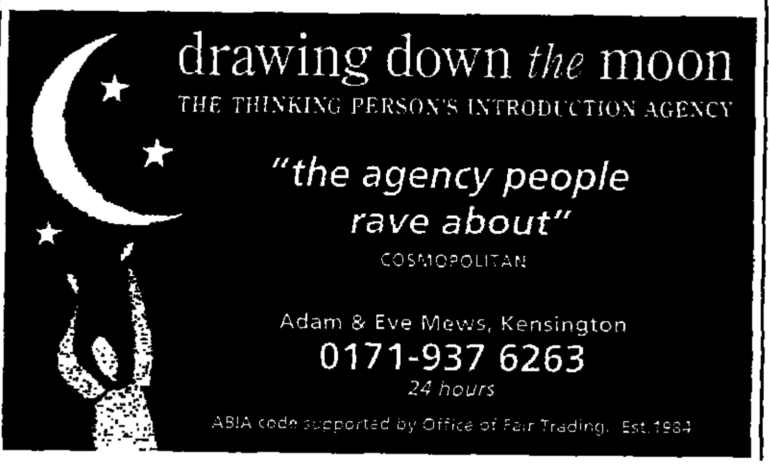
ADVENTUROUS, yet romantic, prof. man, 5'9", passionate, caring, youthful, attractive (!), fit, 38, active but enjoys cosy evenings & walks. Longs to find similar independent, warm, intelligent, energetic, fun, attractive lady who's comfortable in gore-tex, ollies, or taffeta for shared life, passion and adventures. North London/Herts/Bucks. Recent photo appreciated, all letters answered. Box No 8890

ATTRACTIVE, tall, successful prof. (41), based Cent. Scot. WLTM glamorous lady aged 25-58. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8782

AUTHOR, early retired from South Seas, civilised, solvent, WLTM intelligent, elegant 50ish lady, E.Anglia/London. Letter, photo, tel. no. please. Reply to Box No 8870

BLACK professional American male, 37, single and handsome, living in U.S.A. Seeking professional, independent, (age 30-50) genuine woman for friendship and marriage. Send address, photo, and phone for an immediate reply. Please Reply to Box No 8738

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS



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BRISTOL - Bath - Wells. Ladies, you will be amazed at how many attractive gentlemen we have at Close Encounters. Call Free on 0800 141 141

BUSINESS Executive, 60, on assignment in London for 3 years, WLTM sincere lady with GSOH, an interest in literature, movies, theatre, travel and good conversation. Photo and phone no to Box No 8753

BUSY publisher, 31, thin, youthful, honest and easy going, wltm warm, intelligent, unpretentious, professional woman. Please Reply to Box No 8835

CANTERBURY-Tunbridge Wells-Kent. Ladies, you will be amazed at how many attractive gentlemen we have at Close Encounters. Call Free on 0800 141 141

CARDIFF-Chepstow-South Wales. Ladies, it's simple! One call equals many eligible, attractive gentlemen. Call Close Encounters free on 0800 141 141

CARING romantic and sensitive! Teacher n/s, 50's, wishes to explore arts, travel, love, life with slim lady in her 40's from London or South East. Please reply with photo to Box 8744

COMPANY Director, 45, 5'4", medium build, educated, London based likes wining, dining, travelling, water sports. WLTM attractive, slim lady for friendship and relationship. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 8901

COUNTRY MAN retired from farming, living in Ireland seeks lady 55+ for ongoing relationship here, England and France. Interests, travel, fishing, golf, bridge, gardening etc. Photo please. Reply Box No 8771

CRUISING Yacht, 26' moored East Coast seeks attractive female companion for sailing and adventures with slim not bad looking skipper youthful 41 Based N. London. Box No 8658

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

EARLY retiring businessman, young at heart, fit, positive, countryloving, N/S & caring. Seeks contented, special relationship with attractive younger lady to share & enjoy those better things of life now. Would prefer an N/S 44-54 slim, bright commitment free (or nearly so), easy going, adventurous Romantic. Traditional values, financial security & suitcase desirable! Photo appreciated & returned,tel no.to Box No 8566 Sussex area

EASY GOING Cheshire based businessman, 42, 5'11", witty, enjoys sports, pubs, dining, theatre, concerts, & country life. WLTM tall, attractive, slim lady., with similar interests. Photo please. Box No 8617

FED-UP celibate London-based oenophile seeks 30-45 y.o. solution to problem.Photo much appreciated.Box No 8775

FITNESS enthusiast, racing cyclist currently competitively active, 40, 5ft 11in, single, good looking professional (PhD) male, many sporty and cultural interests seeks fit, tallish, friendly, slim, attractive, single, sporty professional female to share interests and dreams. East Anglia/Any. Please reply with photo.Box No 8878

FIT, well spoken, privately educated widower, living Isle of Man wants to share life there with gentle, tactile, attractive widow 60-70. Must be from similar social background. Please Reply to Box No 8764

FORGING AHEAD. Leaving the past behind and earnestly seeking someone with whom I can share the future. My name is David, I am 51, tall and slim. A Friend of The Royal Academy, a lover of cinema, theatre and countryside. I have a beautiful sea view yet I live but an hour or so from London. Please Reply to Box No 8851

HANDSOME hedonist, London based 38yr old, seeks sophisticated lady. He: highly educated international businessman. She: sparky, loves travel, to wine and dine, aged 24-34. Write with photo and tel number. Box No 8772

HARD-WORKING Company M.D., caring, animal/country lover, adventurous, former sportsman, pilot, WLTM English Rose to spoil and relax with. Please reply to Box No 8816

HAVING lost all at Lloyds then divorced, starting again, 52, currently in central London, tall and fit, tennis and sailing, seeking 30-45 year old slim lady. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8872

HOORAY Henry not, just successful entrepreneur in London area. 40, 6'3, slim, blue eyes, n/s, well divorced, no children, varied interests. Mixes well, articulate, caring, GSOH, WLTM very tall, attractive woman, 26-40, no children, to share times out and foreign adventures. Plse Reply to Box no 8846

IF you rate yourself 9/10 in looks, in fun, in being prepared to have a go, we should talk. You won't be disappointed. A photo helps. Box No 8822

INCREDIBLY BORING, unattractive male in mid 50's. Not true! Do you believe the others? Interests include golf, indifferent tennis, dining out, music, theatre, cinema etc. Medium height, nearly n/s & considered ok looking. Near London. Seeking attractive, slim lady, 40-55, GSOH essential. Photo & phone no. please. Box No 8807

INTELLECTUAL but sensual and fun. Central London based man, 35 years old, retired (for now), part time single father (3 year old son). WLTM attractive female companion ideally with compatibly aged children with a view to company, excursions and, maybe, skiing at Christmas. Photo please. Box No 8916

INTELLIGENT, successful, n/s, fit, 43 year old with classic good looks. Diverse interests include theatre and oriental artefacts. Well travelled. WLTM bright, attractive, n/s, 35+ GSOH with similar interests. Home Counties. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 8793

INTELLIGENT, humorous, attractive and adventurous single professional guy 37 living in the South of France seeks a pretty lady to start a forest fire with. Reply to Box No 8677

LADY tall slim late 40s early 50's sought by divorced early 60's successful professional man of many interests looking for a lasting relationship. Recent photo a must. Please Reply to Box No 8735

LARGE cuddly lady sought by tall dark shy chap, 30. E. Mids/Anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 8726

LINCOLNSHIRE - Derbyshire. Ladies, why call long distance? Close Encounters has hundreds of intelligent, attractive gentlemen. Call Vicky on 01522 682594

LONDON Professional, 41, good looking, amusing and presentable, enjoys classical concerts, opera, theatre, good cinema, weekends away etc. Seeks attractive, interesting, wholly uncommitted lady max 35. Only photo & phone no. assures reply. Box No 8881

LONDON Intensely individual introductions in and around London Call Naomi or Mark at Close Encounters on 0171 289 3777

LONDON. 6' slim, professional man, 33, enjoys eating out, theatre, walking, travelling seeks warm, intelligent lady, 24-35. Please Reply to Box 8858

MANCHESTER - Wilmslow - Cheshire. Ladies, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible gentlemen. Call Neil at Close Encounters on 0161 835 4060

ME Tall, slim, stylish male, 42, W.S.O.H. Fun loving & romantic, non academic working lad made good, learning to appreciate some of life's nicer things. You 30+, stunning, attractive and successful, warm & tactile, wishing to meet a man who will not be threatened by these qualities, will not use you, and give you passion & protection. Midlands/North East. Photo please. Box No 8814

MUSIC loving, opera going and generally cultured 38 year old prof gent seeks like-minded lady thirty-something to share good things of life. London based. Box No 8815

NEXUS During the Autumn Nexus members will not only be having parties, weekends away and meeting socially but also making friends individually. What will you be doing? Unattached? Ring for the brochure. (012374) 71704, (0181) 367 6328, (0113) 2445186, (01869) 338801, (0141) 221 1090, (0181) 944 8629, (01286) 831599, (0121) 472 1968 or (01202) 730355. Not a Marriage Bureau or Dating Service.

OLD amiable farmer, North Beds seeks partner, tennis, bridge, travel, quickstep, archaeology. Please Reply to Box No 8836

OXBRIDGE widower seeks top girl, n/s, probably 30s, shy, for total love for ever. 55+, highly eligible, presentable, listed village home. Daughter 14 would welcome you. Worth a try for that miracle - I promise nobody will know. Cautious telephoning first Box 8584

OXFORD based 55 yrs male grad, co. director, N/S, 5'8", 12½ stn, WLTM lady 40-60 for company to occasional London concerts, exhibitions, etc. & weekend breaks UK & continent Bx 8597

PEOPLE need People. Caring business entrepreneur, late forties, lots of tlc, WLTM an interesting professional sensitive lady who likes good food, music, travel, theatre, fast cars, and lots of affection. I am looking for an honest caring relationship with the accent on friendship, and then, who knows? London, Home Counties, Midlands. A.L.A. Photo appreciated Reply Box 8740

PROFESSIONAL male, late 30's, London based, successful, funny post graduate, seeks special woman for theatre, exotic travel, sailing and parties. Letter with photo secures reply. Box No 8799

ROMANTIC, good looking Company Director with GSOH, Jewish, 43, 5'9", Sporty (enjoys Skiing etc) would like to lose his heart to curvaceous female under 40 and share with her the good things in life. Sorry, no Mums! London. Phone no and photo essential. Box 8711

ROMANCE/LOVE life is the missing piece of the jigsaw in my very successful life - so are you seeking the same, and probably no more than 45, blonde caring and sensitive - within reach of London - then lets make it together. Plse Rply Box 8834

SALISBURY-Bournemouth-Dorset Ladies, why write to one when we can introduce you to 100's of eligible gentlemen. Call Carin at Close Encounters on 01258 452344

SERIOUSLY Successful working entrepreneurial widower, young 40's. No ties, 6', fair, athletic build. Enjoys tennis, skiing, bridge and business. In need of TLC from attractive, feminine, younger lady who could enjoy regular skiing and sunshine holidays as well as weekends together.Letter/photo please.Box No 8757

SHARE and enjoy more of life? Professional male, many interests, great S.O.H, thoughtful & caring WLTM lady 20's-40's to share the good times still to be experienced. Northern based, but will travel. Box No 8813

SINGLE, slim, successful, solvent, sportive, well-preserved, assertive, mature, professional, seeks younger (under 46) compatible, attractive, female of any nationality needing these qualities. London telephone number &/or photograph guarantees reply. Box No 8848

STAFFORD - Wolverhampton. Ladies, why call long distance? Close Encounters has 100's of eligible, attractive gentlemen. Call Paul on 01543 255473

STILL longing to meet that someone special; mid 40's, n/s, fit, warm, lively, cuddly & Jewish. I am 53, have adult kids away & live in NW London. Am also n/s, warm, etc, keen on tennis, the arts & many others. Photo appreciated.Box No 8792

SURREY Ladies 30-65 years required for our male membership. Call Mike at Close Encounters 01932 783165

TALL, smart, educated semi-retired businessman, mature, established, linguist, interests in sport, music, travel WLTM slim, elegant lady between 55-65, mobile, educated, for friendship and perhaps romance. Purley, Caterham, Reigate and surrounding Surrey areas prefered. Tel. No. & photo please to Box No 8785

TALL, slim, 35, attractive, v.fit & successful, own media business, N.Ldn seeks equally blessed (& modest!) lady (27-35) with lean muscled body, brains, spark, SOH - wanting more than the office & the gym. Write with photo to Box No 8911

THERE is more to life than hard work and sport. I am a man and I want to share my life with a woman. I am 42 "young" for my age fit thoughtful sensitive and have a quiet sense of humour. Any woman who is interested in life sincere and aged 34 to 40 please write with photo. Reply to Box No 8899

THIS Oxford accademic (retired) rejoices in his happy marriage, adequate income and modest renown but bemoans his lack of confidential friendship with that mature, educated lady whom he WLTM. Box No 8789

WEST COUNTRY Creative, attractive man, 42, lives by sea. Interests: music, walks, clubs, etc. seeks attractive, sensuous, intelligent woman for shared company, more a bonus. Photo please. Reply to Box No 8614

WIDOWER Professional, 57, tall, WLTM sincere, educated, unattached, affectionate, n/s lady, London or South. Box No 8856

WIDOWER into his 60s seeks special lady for lasting relationship. Plse Reply Box 8712

WINTER in Spain. Retired, active male, 65, looks 55, owns large luxury motorhome, WLTM adventurous lady, N/S, travel and romance. Box No 8808

GAY male, E. Dorset, tall, busy, happy, healthy, early 50's, seeks kind, personable, active, long term relationship, 45-60. Box No 8833

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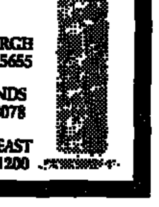

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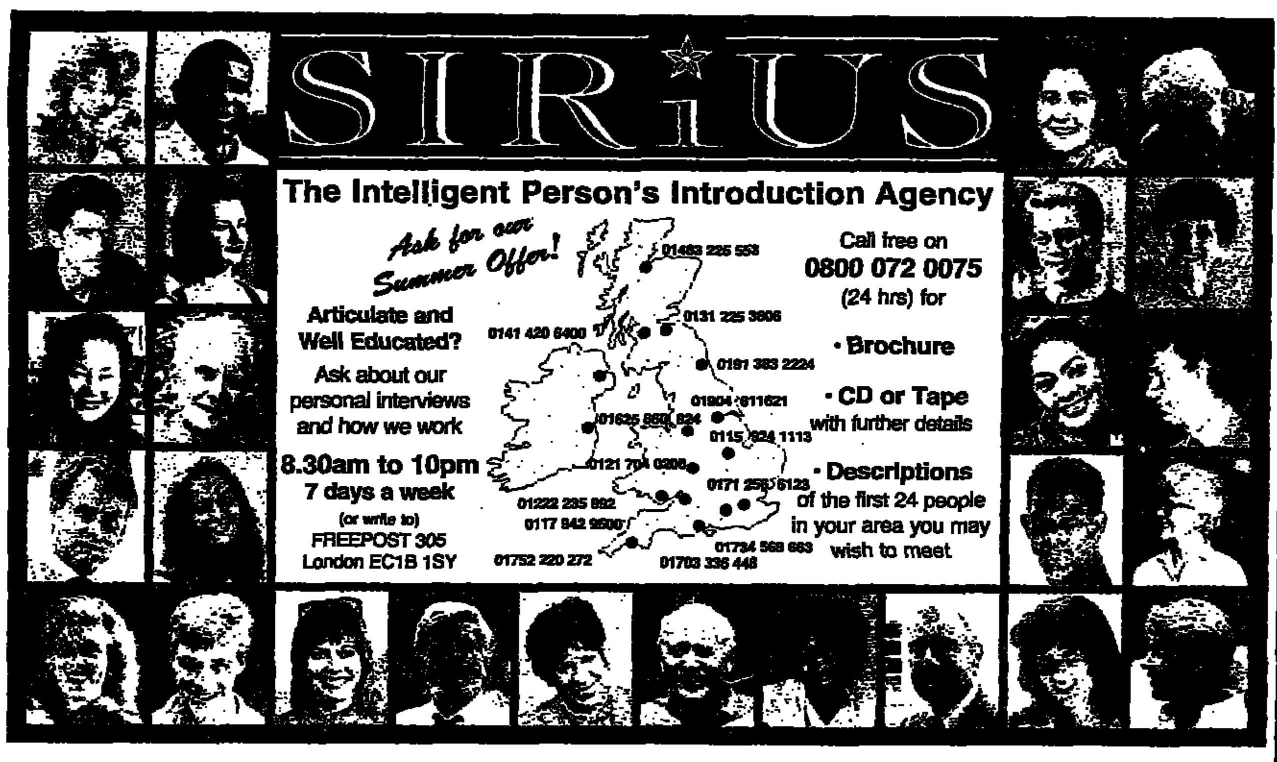

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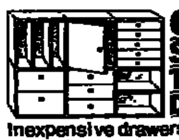

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With rising interest by collectors worldwide in historic gold coins these little pieces of British history will make nice additions to the family's golden treasure chest.

By JOANNE GLOVER

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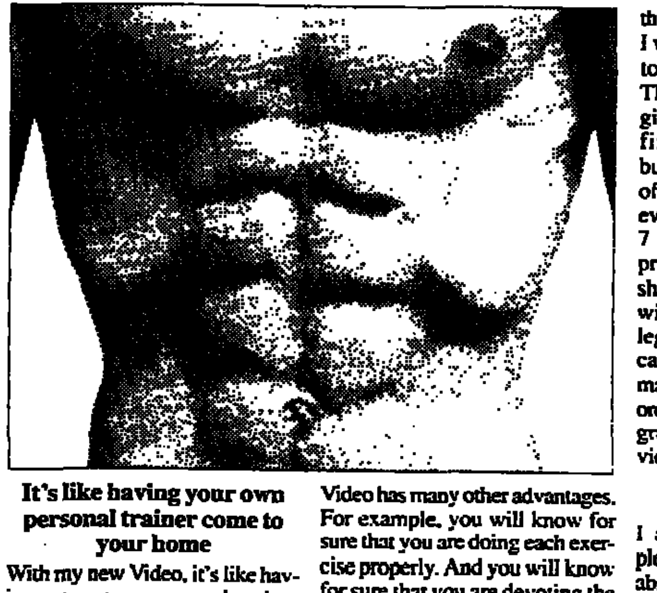
Can you spare just 7 minutes a day to have a flat, firm, sexy stomach?



If the answer is yes, I have wonderful news about my new Video that can give you the kind of flat stomach that will be the envy of everyone.

My name is Jill Knipp. I am a Certified Personal Trainer and I have developed a new Stomach Flattening Video containing 7 simple stomach exercises that take 7 minutes to complete. Yes, just 7 minutes – about the time it takes to make breakfast or take a shower.

I promise you that if you devote just 7 minutes a day to these simple exercises you can have a flat, firm, attractive midsection faster than you ever dreamed possible.

Why this belly-flattening video works in just 7 minutes a day

The abdominal exercises in my Video work ONLY your abdominal muscles. They do not work your back, neck or other parts of your body. The 7 simple exercises in my Video automatically target your abdominal muscles – and only your abdominal muscles.

My Video guarantees you a perfect abdominal workout every time – all in just 7 minutes. And these exercises are safe, effective, fun – and they work.

The 7 stomach exercises in my Video will smooth out, firm and flatten the muscles in your midsection. But not all abdominal exercises do this.

Some abdominal exercises can actually build your abdominal muscles – this is why many people who start stomach-reducing programmes often DO NOT get rid of their gut despite doing hours of grueling exercises.

I can assure you this WILL NOT happen by doing any of the exercises in my 7 minute abdominal workout Video. With my Video you will quickly notice that your clothes fit better and your friends and family will likely comment on how good you look.

It's like having your own personal trainer come to your home

With my new Video, it's like having your own personal trainer come to your home everyday. You simply slide my Video into your VCR and I will show you exactly how to do the 7 abdominal exercises. I will personally guide you through the programme. You can see for yourself how to do each exercise – so you will be sure that you are doing them properly and getting the maximum stomach-slimming benefits.

These abdominal exercises are so effective in getting rid of a pot belly and slimming your midsection that doing more than the 7 minutes of exercises would probably be a waste of time. The 7 simple exercises in the Video are all you need to have the firm, tight, sexy stomach that everyone wants but few are able to achieve.

If you were to hire your own personal trainer it would cost you hundreds if not thousands of pounds – and the results would not equal the results you can expect to achieve with my Video. That's because not all trainers know about the incredible results that can be abtained from my simple 7 minute abdominal workout.

And my abdominal exercise Video has many other advantages. For example, you will know for sure that you are doing each exercise properly. And you will know for sure that you are devoting the proper time to each exercise. And most important I will be right there guiding and encouraging you all the way. I promise I will flatten your pot belly and slim your midsection so quickly and easily that you won't believe your eyes. A firm, flat stomach makes you look and feel better. Your posture often improves and nagging back problems often disappear.

Free Bonus

My Video is only £19.95 (plus £3 postage and handling) and it's worth every penny and more. But there's more! As a FREE BONUS I will include my 7 Minute Buttock Shaping video programme. This programme is designed to give your buttocks that shapely, firm-as-steel look. Shapely buttocks can be the sexiest part of a person's body. But there's even more! I will also include my 7 Minute Leg-Shaping video programme. This programme shows you simple exercises that will trim, tone and form your legs – both your thighs and calves. This whole package normally sells for £39.95. But if you order now you get all three programmes on one convenient video for my one low price.

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Remember you get the 7 Minute Stomach-Flattening programme *plus* the Buttocks and Leg Shaping programmes as a free bonus. Order today – now, while you are thinking about it.

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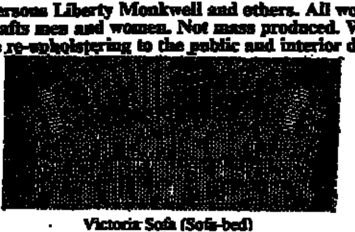

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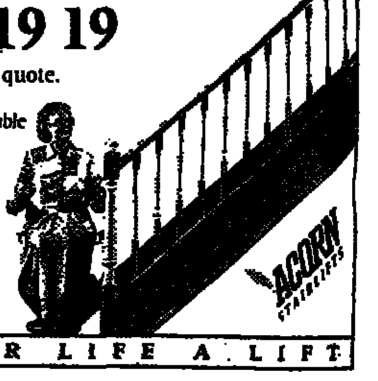

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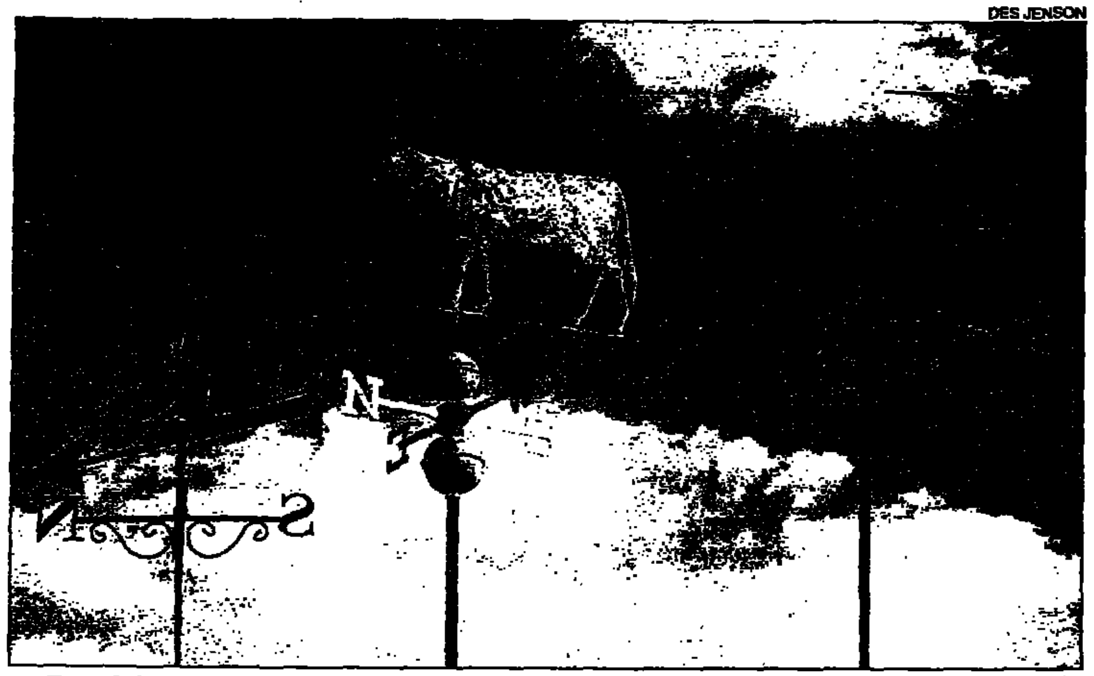
5

Vane attempts at breezy humour

Weathervanes are back in demand, silently invading Britain's rooftops. And when it comes to design, the sky's the limit

DES JENSON



From left: coloured Thames barge (Otter Wrought Iron Products), made from stainless steel painted in zinc chromate rust-resistant paint, small (55cm across cardinals, or points of compass) £193.50; large (70cm across cardinals) £218.50; plain black versions £143.50 and £168.50. Large brass cow from Selfridges (61cm high by 107cm wide) with verdigris finish, £174.99. RDC Man & Dog design (Otter Wrought Iron Products), small (55cm across cardinals) £63.50; large (70cm across cardinals) £74.50, cut from mild steel with a weather-resistant finish

In the age of satellite forecasts and the 24-hour weather channel, weathervanes may have lost their function, but they have more than made up for it in form. A silent invasion of Britain's rooftops has taken place in recent years, from whimsical mini-vanes on garages and outhouses to public art installations costing many thousands. Now we do not need them, we are indulging in them more than ever as purely decorative items.

The sky's the limit when it comes to motifs (though sadly many go unappreciated as we hurry past, eyes clamped at ground level). The majority are designed so that the arrowhead points upwind while the larger surface area of the motif, which catches the air current, points downwind.

It is no accident that the cockerel has dominated weathervane motifs for centuries. (Britain's earliest surviving example, on the church at Ottery St Mary in Devon, dates from 1340.) That big tail and small, distinctive head are ideally proportioned for this wind-catching action. And the shape works equally well as a moulded, three-dimensional, full-bodied vane or a silhouette, flat plane vane in sheet metal — the less expensive and more common of the two basic types.

The Rural Development Commission (RDC) catalogue of designs, which is geared towards helping blacksmiths cater to public demand, features no less than five weathercocks. This most Christian image remains a popular domestic choice in the secular 1990s, partly perhaps because of its versatility.

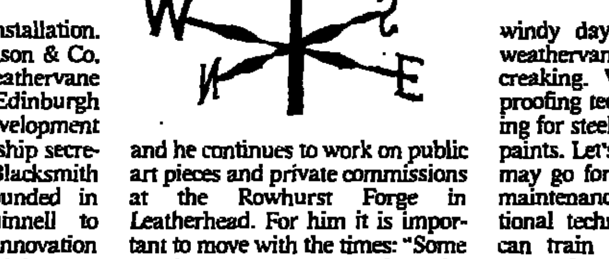
Paul Allen, master blacksmith and forgework adviser of the RDC, says, however: "A lot of people are commissioning their own tailor-made designs showing anything from the family crest, their work, their pastimes or family pets." Mr Allen remains a traditionalist when it comes to methods: "Today many people are using electric welders and cutters but it's a far cry from real forging — shaping in the fire and on the anvil."

A decent quality vane, made with proper workmanship, should cost between £100 and £200, he says. Simple though they may look, a certain amount of precision work is involved, such as proper balancing to ensure the motif rotates freely on its bearing.

It is this kind of precision that is absent in imports, from places such as the Philippines, which are the product of cheap, unskilled labour. They tend to be copies of traditional American vanes — usually in animal forms such as fish, pigs, horses, whales and cockerels — from full-bodied copper pieces pressed out of cast-iron moulds.

And then there is the question of size, because what looks like a modestly-proportioned cockerel up on the spire is often several feet high. The higher up it is going, the bigger it needs to be, and the greater the cost of installation. Phil Johnson of P. Johnson & Co, who made a £65,000 weathervane for a roundabout near Edinburgh for the Livingston Development Corporation, is membership secretary of the British Artist Blacksmith Association (BABA), founded in 1978 by Richard Quinnell to breathe new life and innovation into what he saw as a dying art. The £40 annual membership, open to professionals and non-practicing enthusiasts alike, entitles you to the quarterly *British Blacksmith* magazine, newsletters, training courses and "forge-ins" around the country.

Richard Quinnell was awarded an MBE in 1989 for his role in the revival of British blacksmithing and he continues to work on public art pieces and private commissions at the Rowhurst Forge in Leatherhead. For him it is important to move with the times: "Some people see any departure from the traditions of the last 100 years as a retrograde step but for me blacksmithing is a living craft where tradition meets innovation." His silhouette weathervanes are cut out by computer-generated lasers rather than by saw or hammer and chisel. He also uses materials such as stainless steel and bronze as well as iron and solid Teflon bearings which do not rust or require oil. Mr Quinnell says: "In the 17th century Pepys wrote about wandering around London on a very windy day and hearing all the weathervanes squeaking and creaking. We use modern rust-proofing techniques, like zinc coating for steel and high performance paints. Let's not forget these vanes may go for centuries without any maintenance." He still values traditional techniques, however. "You can train someone to cold-bend strips of iron in a matter of minutes but proper blacksmithing involves heating metal until it's red hot and hitting it into interesting shapes — you can't get graceful shapes by any other means."

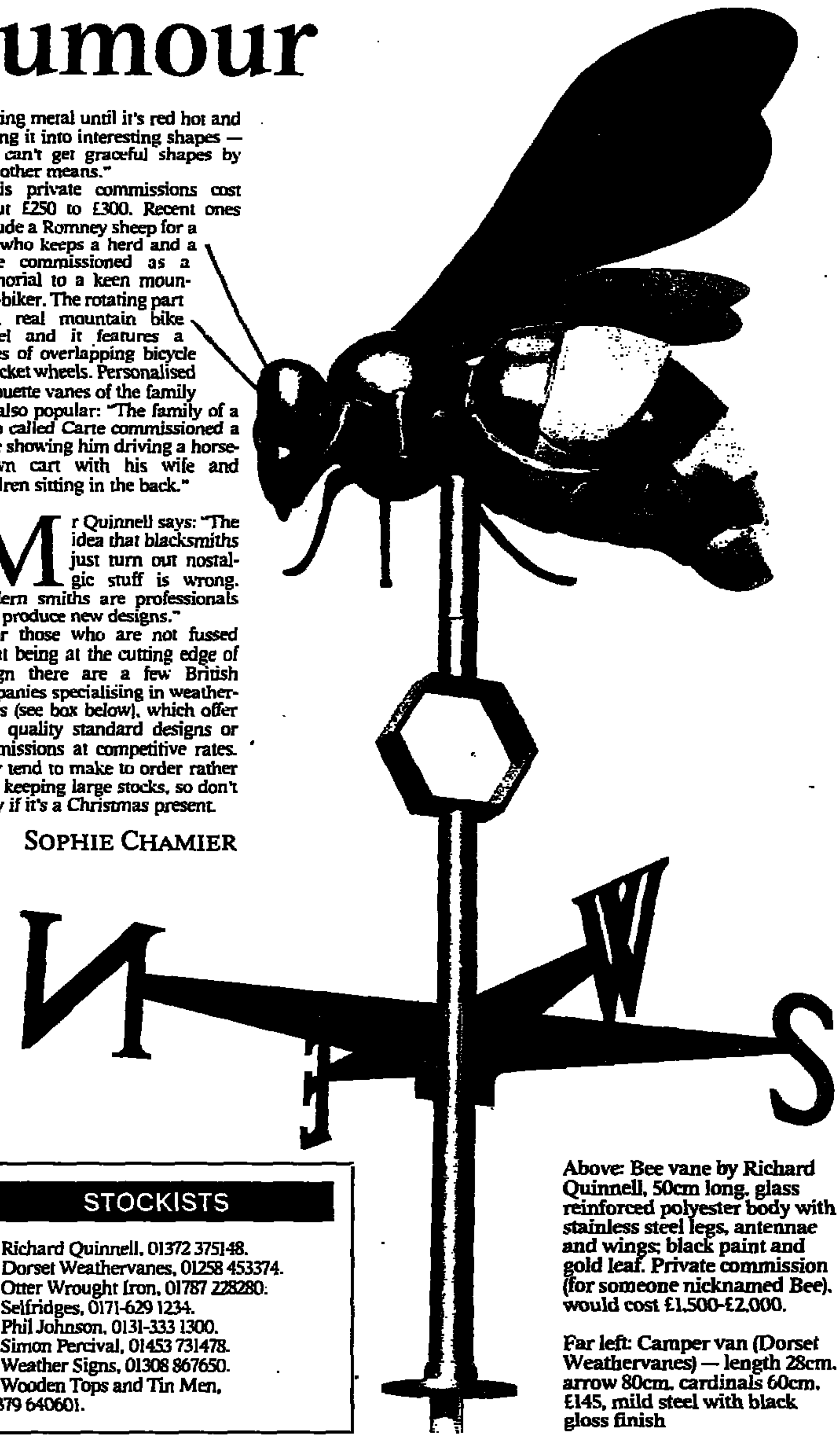


His private commissions cost about £250 to £300. Recent ones include a Romney sheep for a QC who keeps a herd and a piece commissioned as a memorial to a keen mountain-biker. The rotating part is a real mountain bike wheel and it features a series of overlapping bicycle sprocket wheels. Personalised silhouette vanes of the family are also popular: "The family of a chap called Carte commissioned a vane showing him driving a horse-drawn cart with his wife and children sitting in the back."

Mr Quinnell says: "The idea that blacksmiths just turn out nostalgic stuff is wrong. Modern smiths are professionals who produce new designs."

For those who are not fussed about being at the cutting edge of design there are a few British companies specialising in weathervanes (see box below), which offer high quality standard designs or commissions at competitive rates. They tend to make to order rather than keeping large stocks, so don't delay if it's a Christmas present.

SOPHIE CHAMIER



Above: Bee vane by Richard Quinnell, 50cm long, glass reinforced polyester body with stainless steel legs, antennae and wings; black paint and gold leaf. Private commission (for someone nicknamed Bee), would cost £1,500-£2,000.

Far left: Camper van (Dorset Weathervanes) — length 28cm, arrow 80cm, cardinals 60cm, £145, mild steel with black gloss finish

STOCKISTS

- ■ Richard Quinnell, 01372 375148.
- ■ Dorset Weathervanes, 01258 453374.
- ■ Otter Wrought Iron, 01787 228280.
- ■ Selfridges, 0171-629 1234.
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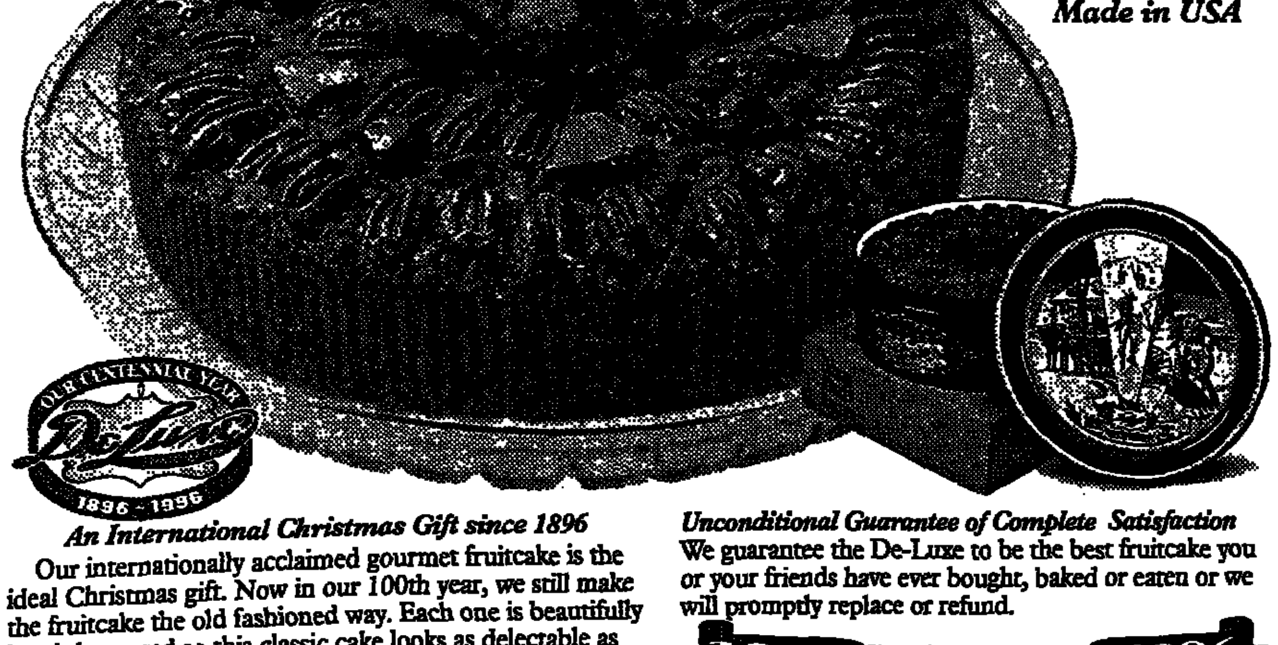

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■ THE PERSIAN PICKLE CLUB
By Sandra Dallas
Arrow, £5.99
ISBN 0 09 972701 3

PRESUMABLY quilting is to American mythology what harvest time is to ours. It is about being part of a community where everyone pulls together for the common good. It is also about being part of a community where everyone knows everyone else's business, where intimacy may bring both strain and comfort. As emblems of rural life, both quilting and harvesting are about times being better than they are now: both suggest innocence and honest labour, camaraderie, shared suffering, hearth and home.

The Persian Pickle Club of the title is a quilting group run by a group of women in a small Kansas farming community. The club is the focal point of a plot in which the predominant features of traditional rural life, not to mention a local conspiracy, are investigated against a backdrop of social and economic unrest (the 1930s Depression) and the arrival of a city girl determined to unearth the community's skeletons.

The plot lacks substantial originality but the book contains the makings of a really sinister novel. Its undoing, however, is a coy tone and underdeveloped narrative and characters. The prose is full of detail but it has the breathy quality of its heroine, Queenie Bean, and some of her stodgy lack of curiosity. Perhaps this is deliberate, but the effect is to diminish what might have been menacing into something prosaic and dull.

If you liked *How to Make an American Quilt* and *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle-Stop Café*, you will love *The Persian Pickle Club*, for it is more of the same cute, soft-focus American fable. It is not bad, simply unreal, and as clear a picture of American rural life as Morris Men are of Merrie Englande. This is sad since Sandra Dallas has obviously drawn inspiration from her parents' experience of the Depression: the novel is preceded by a reference to the "Fifty-cent Summer" when her father was paid half a dollar for a whole season's work.

Very little of *The Persian Pickle Club* has the bite, the heartbreaking quality, of this brief description. It is too cutesy for me but will appeal to many. Dallas is a good storyteller and is capable of weightier work. She would write better still if she were to dispense with sentiment and the idea that history equals recipes and old wives' tales.

MARY LOUDON

Testament from a heart of pure evil

In the most horrifying book he has ever read, **Marcel Berlins** finds some ugly and disquieting truths about the mind and motives of mass-murderer Frederick West

READING this book has been the most unpleasant experience in a long career of book-reviewing. The strong temptation is to advise you to avoid it totally. But it would be wrong to do so. *An Evil Love* is an appalling book — the fault not of the biographer but of his subject — but a necessary one.

What we learn from it is far, far more awful than anything we were told in the reports of Rosemary West's trial, hitherto our principal guide to the horrors of 25 Cromwell Street. The jury in the case heard four tape recordings made of West's interviews with the police: Geoffrey Wansell listened to 120 such tapes. He read the 100-page memoir that West wrote in prison before he hanged himself on New Year's Day 1995. He was given exclusive access to 15,000 pages of information on West and his crimes.

The details that emerge of West's depraved sexual and homicidal activities — somehow made more disturbing by being set not in some seedy inner city, but near glorious, peaceful Gloucestershire countryside — are too horrifying to summarise here, even in sanitised form. But why is the book needed at all? What purpose is served by recounting the hideous events?

The questions should be put in a different way. On what possible grounds can we argue that — alone of every other mass murderer in history — West does not require to be investigated and, if possible, explained? Thousands of books have been written trying to understand the inhuman cruelty of the Nazi period; every warped killer of modern times has been subjected to lengthy examination in books and articles, in the hope of finding clues that might help our society better deal with the deviants among us.

■ AN EVIL LOVE: The Life of Frederick West
By Geoffrey Wansell
Headline, £17.99
ISBN 0 7472 1760 2

Why should West be immune from such scrutiny? Surely not because his crimes were "worse" than those of, say, the Yorkshire Ripper or Dennis Nilsen or Myra Hindley. Indeed, the greater the crimes, the greater the duty to try to come to terms with them, to learn lessons.

West proved particularly difficult to pin down. He was not mad nor suffering from any accepted mental disorder; he was not commanded to do what he did by voices; he did not bear any overwhelming grudge against society; he was not exacting a horrible revenge against women because of the way he had been treated by them; he was not an addict of drink or drugs; he was not seeking some kind of grotesque fame; he did not subscribe to any dark, cultish cause requiring human sacrifice. None of the "usual" reasons for mass killing apply.

He was, though, abnormally fixated on sex; he had himself been sexually abused as a child and had committed incest with both his mother and a sister. To that extent he follows the well-known cycle of abused becoming abuser. That does not, of course, explain the enormity of his depravity. In so many ways West was very ordinary: barely literate but with a kind of glib charm and a talent for telling plausible lies that enabled him to entice so many young women to 25 Cromwell Street. He was lucky, too, to find a soulmate in Rosemary, almost his equal in sexual deviancy: without the explosive chemistry between them, he might not have tortured and killed quite so often (there were certainly many more victims than the 12 to which he admitted).

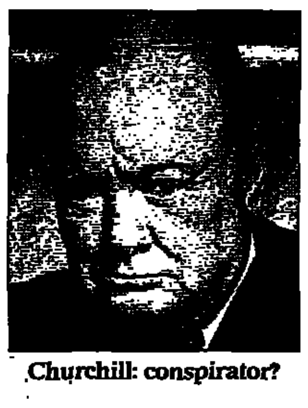
Wansell assembles the sickening story clearly and dispassionately: in the end, he is forced to accept that there is no explanation for West's deeds other than — and Wansell is well aware of the implications of what he is saying — the presence of pure evil. It is not a comfortable conclusion.

I spy some big fat lies

Andrew Roberts is not taken in by a 'true' story of wartime espionage

OPERATION James Bond was a plan of Ian Fleming's to spirit away Martin Bormann from Berlin in May 1945, so the British Government could get its hands on Nazi gold held in Switzerland. The author, Christopher Creighton — not his real name of course, as he has been a secret agent since the age of 15 — took part in the operation himself.

He was also responsible for betraying the Dieppe Raid when he personally met Hitler and Ribbentrop. Creighton's conspiracy involved Anthony Blunt, the Duke of Windsor and Admiral Canaris and he met Ernst Kaltenbrunner, Rommel and Churchill's spymaster, Sir Desmond Morton. When he was tortured by a sadistic SS officer, it was Morton who swapped his cyanide pill for something harmless. Oh, and Rudolf Hess ate my hamster.



Churchill: conspirator?

It is truly extraordinary that a reputable publisher such as Simon & Schuster should produce this childish fantasy as fact.

However, there is a serious side to what I believe to be a pathetically transparent hoax. Great public servants, such as Churchill and Morton, are effectively accused of conspiracy to help senior Nazis escape justice at Nuremberg. The whole story is laughably crude but some distinguished commentators — such as Milton Shulman, who is offering £20,000 to anybody able to disprove it — have been taken in by the book's absurd claims.

■ OPJB
By Christopher Creighton
Simon & Schuster, £14.99
ISBN 0 684 81786 1

Because the evidence produced is so flimsy, the dates so unspecific and the conspiracy so all-embracing, it is highly unlikely that anybody will be able to collect the money. How, for example, is it possible to prove that King George VI was not personally financing the mysterious (and probably fictional) M Section, just as his father and brother had before him? Only through common sense and the knowledge of the period, neither of which is discernible in this self-indulgent, badly written and entirely ludicrous book.

Although the author claims to have strangled enemies with his bare hands, I have little to fear from Creighton (aka John Christopher Ainsworth-Davis, aka Christopher Robin). He doubtless believes that I am only rubbishing his book because I am, of course, in the pay of the CIA, KGB and Mossad.

● *Andrew Roberts's novel* The Aachen Memorandum *is available in paperback.*

Coffin break: Martin Rigney and John Donovan, from *Shadows from the Pale* by John Minihan (Secker & Warburg, £20, ISBN 0 436 20347 2), an affectionate portrait in photographs of the Irish town of Athy, Co Kildare

Outfoxing cinema's master trickster

ORSON WELLES lived his life back to front. There has never been a debut so dazzling, so perfect. But he ended his days crippled by obesity in a permanent LA lunchtime, a busted flush, breaking off every now and then to do voiceovers for cigar commercials.

He is the actor's actor and the director's director. He was the ultimate theatrical magician, a fraud through and through, a snake-oil salesman with the gift of the gab, a chancer, a stealer of others' talents, a rogue, a bully, a charmer, particularly of women. He is the original wunderkind, a hideously talented man who threw it all away. He remains an insoluble enigma every bit as teasing as the meaning of Rosebud, his cryptic pay-off in *Citizen Kane*.

■ ROSEBUD: The Story of Orson Welles
By David Thomson
Little, Brown, £20
ISBN 0 316 91437 1

There have been many attempts to get at the truth of Welles, from Barbara Leaming's fascinating hours of transcribed tapes with the great man to Simon Callow's full-frontal attempt to put all the pieces together. None have quite passed muster.

Now comes David Thomson, Britain's most sophisticated film writer, who abandons the traditional biographical approach in favour of a quest which is sometimes literary, sometimes filmic, constantly engaging and plausible. He meets trickery with trickery, treating his subject as the fictional character he had become, dealing with him as if he were a reluctant and hostile witness. He may provide just as few answers as those who have gone before, for there are few certainties with Welles, but in a series of flashes and explosions he makes Welles appear before us, as if we had sent for a ghostbuster.

Welles: snake-oil salesman

Have by your side *Kane*, *The Magnificent Ambersons*, *The Third Man*, *A Touch of Evil* and a video recorder, for Thomson will send you back to check things out. In the scrappy world of cinema biography, that you will be tempted to do so is some trick.

NICHOLAS WAPSHOTT

TEENAGE FICTION

It's an eccentric life, Henry

HENRY CONSTABLE has the sort of mother who stands by the door chanting, "Isn't it clarinet today, Rose ... Tom, don't forget your racquet ... Fred, remember that Peter's mother is bringing you home after drama club ..." All the Constable children had interests. Henry did not. "He would start off on something new ... then he'd feel bored."

In **Watching the Watcher** (Faber, £9.99, ISBN 0 571 17273 3) Gaye Hicyilmaz describes the isolation of a disengaged 13-year-old in the midst of a busy and talented middle-class family with the zest of a social anthropologist identifying a new trend. After all, most of us have met them: the families who are always busy and proud of it, and whose multifarious activities contrast painfully with any listless cuckoo in the seething nest.

But Henry's lassitude, though admirably drawn, is a plot which leads nowhere, so when he is shipped off to stay with an eccentric genius of an uncle who runs a rather sinister private zoo, we know that there is more to it than a blossoming interest in wildlife. The story takes a grim turn with the discovery of a human captive in the woods.

Together with a love interest in the form of gypsy-like Stella and Henry's unbalanced cousin Julian, there is a disturbing sense of over-eccentricity in a story which starts with an outstanding evocation of family life, nosedives into a mystery and finishes with the moral dilemma of personal freedom. This is not to say that Hicyilmaz is anything but an extraordinarily perceptive and often very funny writer: it is just that her characters are too good for plot contrivances redolent of an airport thriller.

The Monster Garden by Vivien Alcock (Mammoth, £4.50, ISBN 0 74 97106 8) is a striking example of how a chilling theme can be sympathetically developed into the kind of unassuming book where school relationships, parental problems and social and environmental issues are expertly woven together. Living tissue smuggled from a laboratory has an alarming effect when it grows into a monster under 15-year-old Frankie's bed. Less expected are the strongly protective feelings which bind Frankie and friends together as they try to find their Protean protégé a more compatible habitat.

MAUREEN OWEN

Old Austens are still good runners

I WISH we could compare our 1996 Classic bestsellers list with one of a century ago. But, dammit, that is not possible without laborious bean-counting in the ledgers of many publishers, most of whom no longer exist, and the rest of whom have downsized and computerised their ledgers as well as their human resources.

But, what, no Lytton or Scott, both of whom were even more popular than Dickens in their day? Dickens received generally unfavourable reviews in *The Times* for "sentimental twaddle" and other such coarseness. (I hope our reviewers were not unduly influenced by his editorship of Another Newspaper.)

Dickens: "sentimental"

What no Kipling, whose praises *The Times* sang in a unique leader for a white male author who was not only under 30, but not even dead?

Hurray for Jane Austen, selling three times as well as Catherine Cookson. She has been helped by the Jane Craze of television and Hollywood. And she is still 30 times better than Ouida, the Catherine Cookson of a century ago, who was popular rollicking fun. "All rowed fast, but none so fast as stroke", but not a Classic.

And, indeed, our league-table list asks the old unanswerable question, how to define a Classic. One man's Classic is another man's sentimental twaddle. The heaving corsets of *Middlemarch* on television have hoisted George Eliot to almost her proper place. Henry James was caviare to the general a century ago, and he offers small scope for heaving corsets, even for the most lascivious director. Hardy is an undoubted Classic for his poetry. And his novels are made even more popular in 1996 by the screen factor.

Tolkien is the egregious Classic in this flock. If Tolkien, why no Salman Rushdie, Iris Murdoch or Peter Ackroyd? But readers show good taste by still preferring Tolkien to Terry Pratchett and other lesser epigoni.

PHILIP HOWARD

BESTSELLING CLASSIC AUTHORS

		No of titles in top 5,000	Total sales in four-week period to Aug 10
1	JANE AUSTEN	21	13,288
2	CHARLES DICKENS	16	5,268
3	THOMAS HARDY	10	5,050
4	GEORGE ELIOT	9	3,857
5	CHARLOTTE BRONTË	8	3,679
6	JOSEPH CONRAD	7	2,042
7	J. R. R. TOLKIEN	7	2,302
8	ANTHONY TROLLOPE	6	2,322
9	E. M. FORSTER	5	1,600
10	JAMES JOYCE	5	1,087

The Times Bestseller List

HARDBACKS

		No weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1	TO THE HILT **Dick Francis** *(Michael Joseph, £15.99)*	0	0	1,919
2	LONGITUDE **Dava Sobel** *(Fourth Estate, £12)*	3	1	1,498
3	ICON **Frederick Forsyth** *(Bantam, £16.99)*	0	0	1,458
4	DESPERATION **Stephen King** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	1	6	1,203
5	THE BRANDED MAN **Catherine Cookson** *(Bantam, £16.99)*	0	0	572
6	CHARITY **Len Deighton** *(HarperCollins, £16.99)*	0	0	563
7	GUNPOWDER PLOT **Antonia Fraser** *(Weidenfeld, £20)*	5	8	521
8	KEYS TO THE STREET **Ruth Rendell** *(Hutchinson, £15.99)*	0	0	495
9	BEANO BOOK: 1997 *(D. C. Thomson, £4.99)*	3	34	418
10	WAR WALKS: FROM AGINCOURT TO NORMANDY **Richard Holmes** *(BBC, £16.99)*	7	7	387
11	TOMB OF GOD **Richard Andrews** *(Little, Brown, £20)*	2	4	384
12	THE REGULATORS **Richard Bachman** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	0	0	381
13	STAND BY, STAND BY **Chris Ryan** *(Century, £15.99)*	7	5	372
14	ENEMY OF GOD **Bernard Cornwell** *(Michael Joseph, £15.99)*	0	0	339
15	PRACTICAL COOKERY **Victor Ceserani** *(Hodder, £16.99)*	0	0	337
16	MARY BERRY'S ULTIMATE CAKE BOOK **Mary Berry** *(BBC, £16.99)*	0	0	321
17	SEVEN SPIRITUAL LAWS OF SUCCESS **Deepak Chopra** *(Bantam, £9.99)*	6	15	313
18	MILLER'S ANTIQUE PRICE GUIDE: 1997 **M. & J. H. Miller** *(Millers, £21.99)*	5	17	297
19	POPCORN **Ben Elton** *(Simon & Schuster, £12.99)*	7	2	297
20	LETTERLAND *(HarperCollins, £4.99)*	5	16	293

PAPERBACKS

		No weeks	Last week	Weekly sales
1	GREEN MILE 6: COFFEY ON THE MILE **Stephen King** *(Penguin, £1.99)*	1	1	4,898
2	NOTES FROM A SMALL ISLAND **Bill Bryson** *(Black Swan, £6.99)*	6	2	4,090
3	THE HORSE WHISPERER **Nicholas Evans** *(Corgi, £5.99)*	15	3	2,095
4	THE OBSESSION **Catherine Cookson** *(Corgi, £5.99)*	0	0	2,025
5	THE HIGHWAY CODE **Dept. of Transport** *(HMSO, £0.99)*	8	4	1,967
6	COLLINS GEM FRENCH DICTIONARY *(HarperCollins, £3.99)*	40	14	1,946
7	WINTER KING **Bernard Cornwell** *(Penguin, £5.99)*	0	0	1,455
8	STAR WARS: SHIELD OF LIES **Michael P. Kube-McDowell** *(Bantam, £4.99)*	0	0	1,227
9	COLLINS GEM GERMAN DICTIONARY *(HarperCollins, £3.99)*	0	0	1,166
10	SOPHIE'S WORLD **Jostein Gaarder** *(Phoenix, £6.99)*	28	6	1,157
11	COMPLETE THEORY TEST FOR CARS AND MOTORCYCLES **Driving Standards Agency** *(HMSO, £9.99)*	25	18	1,036
12	COLLINS GEM ENGLISH DICTIONARY *(CollinsGem, £3.99)*	0	0	993
13	HIDDEN LIVES: A FAMILY MEMOIR **Margaret Foster** *(Penguin, £6.99)*	10	10	926
14	THE GHOST ROAD **Pat Barker** *(Penguin, £6.99)*	10	5	904
15	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE **Daniel Goleman** *(Bloomsbury, £7.99)*	3	20	812
16	GREEN MILE 5: NIGHT JOURNEY **Stephen King** *(Penguin, £1.99)*	8	7	801
17	HIGH FIDELITY **Nick Hornby** *(Indigo, £5.99)*	23	12	759
18	BETRAYAL **Clare Francis** *(Pan, £5.99)*	10	24	750
19	A CELESTINE PROPHECY **James Redfield** *(Bantam, £7.99)*	40	30	749
20	DRIVING THEORY TEST QUESTIONS **British School of Motoring** *(Virgin, £2.99)*	12	44	744

This Times list monitored 40,404 titles representing high-street sales of £4.8 million during the week.

SUPPLIED BY WHITAKER BOOKTRACK (01420 545420)

Bloomsbury aims to be Quids in

PENGUIN may have no plans to issue any more 60p mini-books but that has not stopped rival publishers exploiting the seemingly endless demand for cheap editions. Bloomsbury, for instance, celebrates its tenth birthday next month with the issue of a series of "Quids", ten elegantly produced titles retailing at £1 each. The famous names in the series include T. C. Coraghessan Boyle, Nadine Gordimer, Will Self and Joanna Trollope.

Imperiously independent in an era of media conglomeration, Bloomsbury is one of the publishing successes of the decade. It was founded by four leading publishers — Nigel Newton, Liz Calder, Alan Wherry and David Reynolds — and quickly established a reputation for stylish innovation.

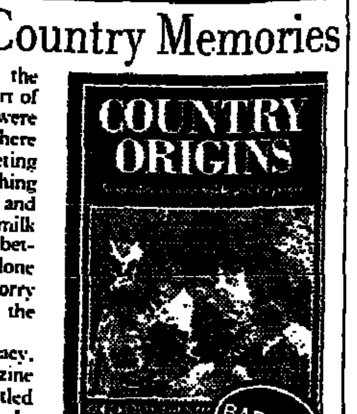
Its headquarters is a late 17th-century house in Soho Square, and its logo — the huntress Diana, whose bow forms the initial B — is as recognisable as Penguin's, or the "ff" of Faber & Faber.

Bloomsbury is probably best known for its literary fiction, the responsibility of Liz Calder, and, less happily, for Anna Pasternak's meretricious *Princess in Love*. Though a commercial and marketing triumph, it divided the directors and dismayed several important authors concerned that Bloomsbury should be associated with such tawdry opportunism.

In 1991, Bloomsbury floated on the Stock Exchange, raising funds for the launch of paperback, reference and children's divisions. And Calder's eye for new talent remains undimmed; last year the little-known David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars* was an international bestseller.

What differentiates the Quids from other bargain editions is their attractive physicality; each title is a beautiful artefact in its own right: the paper is thick and creamy, the covers are durable and the dust jackets have been designed by the artist Jeff Fisher. There is nothing superficial about them.

JASON COWLEY



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This, in rich, factual accuracy, is the stuff of the new magazine *Country Origins*, subtitled *Yesterday's Countryside & Its People*. A quarterly more like a generous paperback book, with words that will have you shout 'Yes! I remember.' and with colour, sepia and black-and-white illustrations. It aims to give you (and anyone you know who was raised in the countryside) an immediate tingle and lasting pleasure. There is even an introduction to family history.

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NEW IN PAPERBACK

Franklin Roosevelt in 1920: lightweight in his youth?

■ IN THE TIME OF THE AMERICANS
By David Fromkin
Papermac, £14.99
ISBN 0 333 63900 6

THERE'S a reverence, but not too much, about the way David Fromkin explains his country's rise to power on the world stage and the motivation of the men who took it there.

It's an ambitious task, focusing on the generation whose political coming of age occurred during the First World War and progressing to the day in 1961 when an ageing Eisenhower handed the baton to a new breed, embodied in John Kennedy.

What Fromkin — Professor of History and International Relations at Boston — aims to do is show that the idealistic new democracy did not so much seek to be a prime mover as have that status thrust upon it, and that its leaders sought not gold or glory, but to change the political ways of the world to make it a better place. Fromkin argues his case well in a lucid, dispassionate prose.

He informs his historical research with details of the personal lives and beliefs of his characters — including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower and Harry Truman — and while he clearly respects these men, he's not shy of showing their foibles. Thus we discover that the youthful FDR was a cosseted lightweight who drank and cheated, that Eisenhower had a vicious temper and that MacArthur was a dominated mother's boy. Even during Roosevelt's finest hour — the decision to bring the States into the Second World War, securing the allied victory — he's revealed to be shortsighted, forcing Churchill to beg repeatedly for a mere 30 reconditioned US warplanes prior to the Battle of Britain.

Fromkin paints a complete picture, describing an executive dynasty which, though often naive and not immune to mistakes, tore its country from an isolationist stance for what seemed altruistic reasons. How America's interventionist policy then developed was to be out of its hands.

■ THE PENGUIN BOOK OF HISTORIC SPEECHES
Edited by Brian MacArthur
Penguin, £9.99 ISBN 0 14 017619 5

DANIEL O'CONNELL, the great 19th-century Irish nationalist, spoke to the multitudes — and they listened. "There was half a million of men," said one old man who was there. "It was a mighty gathering. Everybody heard Dan ... He said 'Silence', and silence came to us as the wind upon the barley ... out to us all on the edge of the crowd came the speech of Dan O'Connell." In the age of the soundbite, this volume is a fine reminder of the way in which the spoken word can change the world. MacArthur, who edits these pages, starts with Moses and ends with Mandela. The book is organised thematically: the section on the American Civil War is particularly fine. We even get a florid snippet of Edward Everett's two-hour address at Gettysburg; preceding here, as it did then, Lincoln's 270-word Gettysburg Address, it highlights just how extraordinary that little speech was.

■ DON'T CALL IT NIGHT
By Amos Oz
Vintage, £5.99
ISBN 009 949601 1

IN A small Israeli town at the edge of the desert, Noa, a teacher of literature, is invited to head a committee which will set up a rehabilitation centre for young drug addicts. Funding for the centre is to come from the father of a pupil who died of a drug overdose. To her surprise, she learns that the boy had felt close to her.

Noa becomes increasingly obsessed while Theo, her partner who is much more experienced in such campaigns, is forced to wait patiently at home. As the frustrated energies of love are pitted against the inertia of intimacy, their shared tensions and tenderness become the focus of a deeply moving novel written with infinite humanity and wisdom.

■ BURY ME STANDING: The Gypsies and their Journey
By Isabel Fonseca
Vintage, £7.99
ISBN 0 552 99686 6

FONSECA'S portrait, past and present, of the gypsy diaspora in East and central Europe is a revelation. Set against the contemporary battleground of identity politics and nationalism in the former Soviet bloc, the book opens a window on a vibrant, close-knit and resourceful people who have long sidelined by history, as well as demonised and persecuted by the societies in which they live. Fonseca's agile, truth-seeking narrative unlocks the bolts of ignorance and prejudice, and travels in and out of lives, families, countries and histories. Her book forms a vivid mosaic of Europe's largest and least-known minority.

Contributors: Glyn Brown, Erica Wagner, Jill Waters, Ariadne Birnberg

Imaginary truths in a state of Grace

Margaret Atwood conjures magic from the story of a notorious 19th-century murder case in Canada, **Elizabeth Buchan** says

"I AM certain of nothing," wrote Keats, "but ... the truth of the imagination."

Two things emerge from the crowded, passionately written text of *Alias Grace*, a fictional reconstruction of the life of a servant girl convicted for murder at the age of 16. First, the belief that, ultimately, the imagination unlocks the door to a richer landscape than an array of facts. Second, truth about any one thing is elusive, never certain and, perhaps, not important. "When you're in the middle of a story," Grace warns us, "it isn't a story at all only confusion. It's only afterwards that it becomes anything like a story."

Both the historian and the novelist arrange fragments to create a picture, much as Grace creates patterns out of scraps to sew her quilts — a metaphor reflected in the slightly awkward structure of the novel, which includes poems and extracts and encompasses both first and third-person viewpoints.

One of the notorious figures of her day, Grace Marks was very young and unusually good-looking when, with James McDermott, she was accused of the Montgomery-Kinnear murders in Canada in 1843. McDermott was hanged for the murder of their employer, Kinnear, but Grace's sentence was commuted to 30 years in prison, from where she continued to arouse controversy.

Was she guilty of these vicious killings? Or was she a terrified witness in thrall to the violent bully McDermott? For some, convinced

■ ALIAS GRACE
By Margaret Atwood
Bloomsbury, £14.99
ISBN 0 7475 2787 3

that women were either incipient hysterics or devils, her guilt was incontrovertible. For others, not. An historian would take into account these contemporary attitudes towards servants and women to join up the space between the dots but this

Atwood: truth of the imagination

territory is, necessarily, limited. While not ignoring the social and cultural context — and, as ever, Margaret Atwood's research is a fascinating assembly of domestic and social detail — the author pushes further. In an act of liberation, Grace is allowed to speak for herself and narrate her own version of events to Dr Simon Jordan, who is researching the nervous diseases of criminals.

Cool, occasionally acerbic, at times wrenchingly innocent but also deceptive, Grace describes her childhood in Ireland, emigration to Canada, the parting from her drunken father and siblings, her work as a servant and her friendship with Mary Whitney, who dies horribly from a botched abortion and whose name Grace uses when on the run. It is an account, both lyrical and lurid, that is absolutely germane to Grace's position in the social order. Flounces on a dress, laundry methods, larder arrangements, patterns on china, the spectrum of smells: these are the staples of an existence driven by drudgery and changing seasons, viewed from the bottom up. Thus, Grace watches Nancy Montgomery cavorting with Kinnear upstairs and it is significant that the butchered bodies are consigned to the cellar.

It is not a question of innocence or guilt, declares Dr Jordan, merely what you can remember. Grace's guilt remains open to interpretation. What is vital is the release of the imagination and *Alias Grace* is the author's gift to the dispossessed and the traditionally silent, written by a great novelist whose capacity to surprise, to challenge and to infuse her fictions with the surge and pulse of existence never fails. Yes, the absolute truth about the murders may elude us but the reader gains something far better and deeper.

Margaret Atwood interviewed: Magazine, page 14

Cactus Blossom, 1984, from *Pistils*, a collection of flower studies by Robert Mapplethorpe (Jonathan Cape, £60. ISBN 0 224 03783 8)

The hole story

IT IS now 24 years since Richard Adams first published his now classic novel: his marketing men must be thrilled that, at last, he has returned to his patch. Naturally, any sequel to *Watership Down* will sell in its thousands. The original book ended with Hazel, Fiver and chums poised at the beginnings of a new life: all their enemies were defeated, they had established the warren of their dreams. So what next?

Well, not much. *Tales from Watership Down* is not, actually, a sequel. "Long-awaited return" and "a worthy successor" are the phrases the publishers use — in fact, "companion volume" would be the best description.

The book is divided into three sections. The first is made up of seven stories of the sort that rabbits tell each other in their burrows at night — how Rabbits got their Sense of Smell, the Rabbit who beat the Fox, the Rabbit who saw a Ghost; the second has a few more adventures of the great mythical hero El-ahrairah. In *Watership Down*, the narrative was regularly interrupted by these folk tales. With their own language, rhythm and evocation of an oral tradition, they were part of the triumphant originality of the novel, but by no means the best part.

■ TALES FROM WATERSHIP DOWN
By Richard Adams
Hutchinson, £14.99
ISBN 0 09 180166 4

That was the epic journey to the Down. Fortunately, in the third section, it is to the Down that Adams returns.

The utopia which the rabbits had fought so hard to establish is now up and running. These gentle new tales are not of troubles, more hiccups in paradise — the sort of problems that beset and test any new society. They have to deal with the onset of feminism, in the shape of an Amazonian doe keen to take over the warren. There is the odd disciplinary matter, and still a few territorial issues to be ironed out with their old Efrafan foe. But Hazel proves to be a good and wise chief, equal to all these challenges — the Plato of the rabbit world.

Of course, you miss the heroic struggles of the original novel, but it is still a delight to meet these characters again. Adams's style and storytelling is as sure as ever. And who knows? As the full effects of the Newbury bypass are felt on the migratory habits of the Hampshire lapine, perhaps he will find a proper sequel yet.

GILL HORNBY

Michèle Roberts on how Tim Lott found tentative hope in a family tragedy

Absolve me, Mother, of your sins

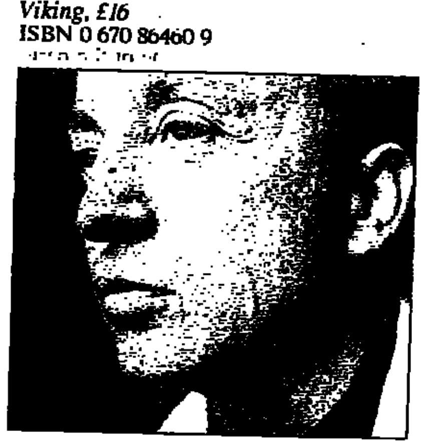
TIM LOTT'S very intelligently written elegy for a person and a place tells a heartbreaking tale culminating in breakdown and suicide, reveals a few family secrets and appears to be engagingly sincere. Here is a narrator who, if not omniscient, is at least reliable. His triumph is to take tragedy as his subject, and, by exploring it, create a new myth of tentative hope. The reader is harrowed, intrigued, and finally consoled.

Lott's mother Jean killed herself. Nobody could understand why. She was an apparently happy and contented woman, devoted to her husband and sons, filling her retirement years with hobbies and outings. Some time previously, Lott had suffered from serious depression and had also considered topping himself. When his mother blurted out her anguish to him, just before she died, he felt he failed her by not understanding her desperation. Seeing their sadness somehow intertwined, and feeling in some way culpable, Lott set out to find an explanation for Jean's despair and his own crisis and confusion.

The pattern of his story is woven from his fascination with class, sociology and psychology. Reading this account of upper-working-class life in clean, respectable Southall in west London is like watching a surgeon dissect the heart of middle England, trying to work out why such a strongly pumping organ should weaken and give way.

Lott's great strength is his style. He writes with the imagination of a novelist, the dash of a journalist, the precision of a historian. His family saga, which begins before the Second World War, is told in a mixture of past and present tense, offers a collage of musings on old photographs, critiques of theories of depression, anecdotes of eccentric aunties and uncles, sober accounts of postwar glumness and emotional repression, and a breathtaking summing-up of culture as commodity. A decade boils down to what you can buy. Here's his wry 1970s self-portrait: "I wear plaid bum-freezer jackets with fake-fur collars, Afghan coats that smell like damp yak, purple platform boots, Donald Duck shoes, shirts with collars like ox tongues. I have an army greatcoat, bell-bottom Wranglers bleached and frayed at the bottoms, fitted leisure shirts from Michael's Men's Boutique in Ealing Broadway."

■ THE SCENT OF DRIED ROSES
By Tim Lott
Viking, £16
ISBN 0 670 86460 9



Lott: guilt over his mother's suicide

As we have become accustomed to believing that you shop for a soul, that only spending money equips you with the labels that designate your values and aspirations, it might be worth noting that Lott's mother Jean did not have money of her own, for she belonged to a generation that worked non-stop in the home yet received nothing but sentimental recognition for it.

It is odd, in a book that so passionately analyses the possible causes of identity crisis and terminal depression, to find so little attention paid to gender. Lott recognises only *en passant* that girls of Jean's social class, in the 1940s, were offered particularly prescribed and circumscribed roles as self-denying servers of others, but he does not pursue this fleeting insight. While noting that women's liberation never got to Southall housewives in the late 1960s (though it was expressed by women factory workers of the time, not just privileged intellectuals), he does not appear to see that Jean might have been suffering from what Betty Friedan called the feminine mystique. She might have been full of inexpressible rage about her life as well as love for her husband and children.

Lott is comically deprecating about the money, freedom and treats he took for granted in the 1980s. It is clear that Jean supposed she did not deserve those. Nonetheless, I value this book for its courage, insight and provocation. So few sons write about their mothers that it is marvellous, even if sometimes frustrating, to read one who does.

Songwriter presents a sick-note

"YOU'VE not had the luck," a doctor said to Ben Watt, when the disease that had kept him hospitalised for two and a half months seemed, finally, to be under control. The doctor's words are an honest response to illness. Sick people are unlucky, which is why the healthy feel uncomfortable in their presence.

Watt was unlucky enough to be brought low, almost to the point of death, by a rare autoimmune disease called Churg-Strauss Syndrome. His immune system started to produce antibodies that no longer recognised his own tissue and nobody knew why.

■ PATIENT: The True Story of a Rare Illness
By Ben Watt
Viking, £12.50
ISBN 0 670 87041 2

He was operated on, lost most of his bowel and spent painful weeks in Westminster Hospital's intensive therapy unit becoming more familiar with his wracked body than he might have wished — "I'd always thought 'bowel' was just a coloquial term like 'guts' and meant somewhere near your arse".

Before his luck ran out at 30, Watt and his girlfriend, Tracey, had been the successful songwriting team and band Everything but the Girl. You might have thought that such a gilded youth would have been reduced to a state of whingeing self-pity by this scary illness but Watt is made of particularly fine stuff, possessed of a shining intelligence that allowed him to transcend his horrible circumstances. When he is disconnected from his drips, he feels like "a bathroom being capped off by a plumber".

I cannot think of any book that so clearly describes the gap between sickness and health, the greatest gap that exists between human beings. Charles Lamb said that sickness enlarges the dimensions of a man's self to himself. Watt has managed to convey this disturbing rite of passage to a wider audience.

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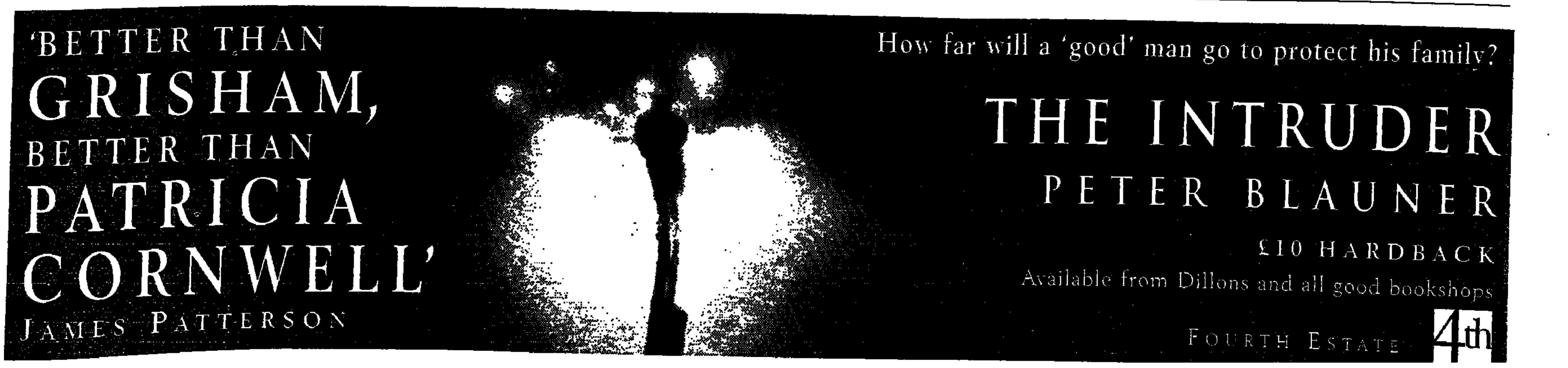

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GOING OUT

CHILDREN

■ **LONDON**

Fun in French
Six to 11-year-olds are invited to learn beginners' French aided by drama workshops.
Le Petit French Frog Club,
Sandmere Road, SW4 (0171-733 5582). Today, 11am-12.30pm: phone for details.

Jack and the Beanstalk
Children's favourite, performed by Piccolo puppets. For three to five-year-olds.
Little Angel Marionette Theatre,
Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today, tomorrow, 11am: £5.

Rainbow Days
Fun trio Bungle, Zippy and George lead the adventures in Nursery Rhyme Land.
Hackney Empire,
Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424). Ends today, 10.30am and 1.30pm: £4.

Wheels of Life
Educational look at optical toys for ages three and above.
Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood,
Cambridge Heath Road, E2 (0181-983 5200). Today, 11am-12.45pm and 2-3.45pm: free.

Zippo's Circus
Gravity-defying acts, plus a dynamic horse show.
Streatham Common,
SW16 (0374-811 811/608 090). Today, 2.30pm, 5pm and 7.30pm; tomorrow, 11am and 2.30pm; £3.50-£8.50.

■ **REGIONAL**

ARUNDEL
Batty About Bats?
Bat extravaganza including displays and special bat detectors.
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust,
Mill Road (01903 883355). Tomorrow, 9.30am-5.30pm: £2-£4.

BATTLE
Festival of Culture
Hot mix of arts, food, crafts, music and dance from Asia and Africa.
Pestalozzi International Village,
(01424 870444). Today, 11am-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.50.

LISBURN
Saturday Art Club
Series of workshops catering for parents and children.
Harmony Hill Arts Centre,
Harmony Hill (01846 678219). Today, 10am-1pm, phone for details.

REDHILL
Rumpelstiltskin
Four to eight-year-olds can watch and participate in a theatre performance.
Harlequin Theatre,
Warwick Quadrant (01737 765547). Today, 11am; £2.50-£3.

STAFFORD
The Wychwood Warriors
Re-enactment of Anglo-Saxon life, including mock fights.
Stafford Castle,
(01785 257698). Today, tomorrow, midday-4.30pm.

THAMES TV

London: Zippy, George and Bungle, of the television series *Rainbow*, lead the Nursery Rhyme adventures at the Hackney Empire

COMEDY

■ **LONDON**

Bound and Gagged Comedy Club
Ian Stone and Otis Cannelloni. Terry Alderton MCs.
Old Bull Arts Centre,
High Street, Barnet (0181-449 0048). Tomorrow, 8pm: £6, concs £4.

Comedy Store: Best in Stand-Up
Sean Percival, Paul Zenon and Kevin Gildea, plus Fred MacAulay as MC.
Comedy Store,
Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914433). Tonight, 8pm and midnight: £10.

Comedy Store Players
Television-friendly line-up with Paul Merton, Lee Simpson, Jim Sweeney, Neil Mullarkey, Richard Vranch, Tony Hawkes.
Comedy Store,
Oxendon Street, SW1 (01426 914433). Tomorrow, 8pm: £9.

Jongleurs Camden
Fred MacAulay, Simon Lipson, Keith Fields, Dylan Moran and Otis Cannelloni.
Jongleurs Comedy Camden Lock,
Chalk Farm Road, NW1 (0171-924 2766). Tonight, 7.15pm and 11.15pm: £10, concs £7.

■ **REGIONAL**

BLACKPOOL
Ken Dodd
More slap and ticklestick.
Grand Theatre,
Church Street (01253 28372). Tomorrow, 6pm and 8.45pm: from £7.

WISBECH
Jo Brand
Queen of cakeholes on food, men and single life.
Angles Centre,
Alexandra Road (01945 585587). Tonight, 8pm: £8.

London: Tony Hawkes is one of the Comedy Store Players

CRITIC'S CHOICE

RHONA CAMERON
Scotland's feisty and charming lesbian comedian, probably best known as a presenter of BBC2's Gaytime TV, is cracking jokes at the Drill Hall, warming up for to her first national tour. Cameron live on stage, much less gushy than on Gaytime, has loads of bounce and acute anecdotes combined with endearing nervous energy. She is moving on from plain stand-up these days, having a shot at character comedy and bursting into song.

KATE BASSETT

Drill Hall,
Chenies Street, WC1 (0171-637 8270). Tonight, 7.30pm and 9.30pm: £9-10, concs £6.

THEATRE

■ **LONDON**

The Flight Into Egypt
Con O'Neill and Paul Jesson in James Garner's new play, set in wartime Poland. John Dove directs.
Hampstead,
Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 3.30pm.

Romance, Romance
British premiere of the 1988 Broadway musical, by Keith Herrmann and Barry Harman, presenting two views of romance: Schnitzler's in turn-of-the-century Vienna and a modern contrast. Stephen Dexter directs.
Bridewell,
Bride Lane, Fleet Street, EC4 (0171-936 3456). Tonight, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 2.30pm, Sun, 4.30pm.

Sarrasine
Bette Bourne, Beverley Klein and François Testory from the 1990 production are joined by Sara Kestelman in Neil Bartlett's fascinating adaptation of Balzac's tale of the last of the castrati. Music by Nicolas Bloomfield.
Lyric,
King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). In preview tonight, 7.30pm.

Sunspots
Drama about a girl camping out in a seaside amusement arcade. Lisa Goldman's revived production for the Critics' Choice season.
Battersea Arts Centre,
176 Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight, 7.30pm, tomorrow, 5.30pm.

3 Ms Behaving
Debby Bishop, Dawn Hope and Melanie E. Marshall, from *Ain't Misbehavin'*, sing fave jazz and blues.
Tricycle,
269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Tonight and tomorrow, 8pm.

Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?
Diana Rigg and David Suchet in Howard Davies's staging of Albee's most famous play. With Clare Holman and Lloyd Owen.
Almeida,
Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). In preview tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 3pm.

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Critic's Choice: Brian Doherty in *Pentecost*

CRITIC'S CHOICE

PENTECOST
The Ulster dramatist Stewart Parker, best known as the author of *Spokesong*, died in 1988 aged just 47. An excellent Irish company, Rough Magic, now comes to London with a later play that should confirm his reputation as a wise, healing voice and a loss both to the theatre and his divided province. His cross-section of troubled, articulate Catholics and Protestants could be too obviously exemplary. Their habitat, a slum house marooned in a sectarian no-man's land during the strike of 1974, could be too blatantly symbolic. But Lynne Parker's production brings place and people tellingly to life.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Donmar,
Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 4pm.

■ **REGIONAL**

BUXTON
Paint Your Wagon
The New Shakespeare Company takes its production of the catchy Lerner and Loewe musical on tour. With Tony Selby and Claire Carrie. Ian Talbot directs.
Opera House,
Water Street (01298 72190). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

CARDIFF
Easy Terms
Frank Vickery directs his comedy of family ties.
Sherman,
Senghennydd Road, Cardiff (01222 230451). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

GLASGOW
Trainspotting
Harry Gibson's adaptation of Irvine Welsh's best-selling cult novel. Not suitable for children.
Theatre Royal,
Hope Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight, 7.15pm.

GUILDFORD:
Hedda Gabler
Lindy Davies plays the title role in a new production of Ibsen's classic, prior to the West End. With Phyllida Law and Roy Marsden. Directed by Lindy Davies.
Yvonne Arnaud,
Millbrook (01483 440000). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

NEWCASTLE
A Doll's House
Janet McTeer stars with Owen Teale and John Carlisle in Ibsen's classic drama.
Theatre Royal,
100 Grey Street (0191-232 2061). Tonight, 7.30pm; mat, 2.30pm.

POP

■ **LONDON**

East 17, Boyzone, Outhere Brothers, Michelle Gayle, Ant and Dec, Louise
Pop, soul and rap. Part of the *Top of the Pops* weekend.
Wembley Arena,
Empire Way, HA9 (0181-900 1234). Tonight, 6.30pm; admission £16.

Paul Jones and Dave Kelly
Blues and R & B from the singer/harmonica player Jones and slide guitarist Kelly from the Blues Band.
Watermans Arts Centre,
High Street, Brentford (0181-568 1176). Tonight, 10.30pm; £8.

K'ala Marka
Bolivian folk group.
The Spitz,
Commercial Street, E1 (0171-247 9747). Tomorrow, 5pm; £5, concs £4.

Totó La Momposina, Celina Gonzalez
Culmination of the *Colores de Colombia* weekend. A programme of singing and dancing, mixing African, native Indian and Spanish music.
Barbican Hall,
Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £7.50-£13.50.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

JAMES BLOOD ULMER
His profile has dipped somewhat since 1994, when he released no less than three albums, and he has a worrying habit of arriving on stage late. But never underestimate the capacity of guitarist and singer James Blood Ulmer to pin an audience to the spot with his high-voltage mix of jazz, blues, funk and "harmolodic" music. His singing betrays the influence of Jimi Hendrix, but the 54-year-old veteran's intense, "out there" style of playing was more obviously forged in the crucible of 1970s American fusion music, notably that of Ornette Coleman in whose band Ulmer played from 1974 to 1977.

DAVID SINCLAIR

Jazz Café,
5 Parkway, London NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow, 9pm; £12.50.

■ **REGIONAL**

ASHBURTON
Davey Arthur and Co
Irish folk singer, formerly with the Fureys.
The Lanterns,
Knowle Hill (01364 652697). Tonight, 8pm; £4.

BIRMINGHAM
Ruby Turner
Birmingham's soul diva sings the standards.
Ronnie Scott's,
Broad Street (0121-643 4525). Tomorrow, 8pm; £15.

BRIERLEY HILL
Ruby Turner
See Birmingham.
Robin Hood Inn,
(01384 456679). Tonight, 8pm; £6.50-£7.

DUBLIN
Throwing Muses
Boston art-rock trio play their new album, *Limbo*.
Olympia Theatre,
Dame Street (00 3531 677 7744). Tonight, 8pm; £10.50.

FARNHAM
Footworks Folk Dance Festival
An exciting line-up of Eastern European, English, French and cajun music from Caravanserai, Committee Band, On Bouge and Joli Blon.
The Maltings,
Farnham (01252 726234). Tonight, 7.30pm; £7.

GALWAY
Levellers
Brighton-based folk-rock festival favourites.
Leisureland,
Salthill (00 353 91 521 455/564 198). Tonight, 8pm; £12.50.

GLASGOW
Red Snapper
Jazz and funk-influenced techno.
King Tut's Wah Wah Hut,
St Vincent Street (0141-221 5279). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; £5.50.

LEICESTER
Trashcan Sinatras
Crafted pop from Scotland.
The Charlotte, Oxford Street (0116-255 3956). Tonight, 8pm; £3.

London, Wembley Arena: *Top of the Pops*, Louise

MANCHESTER
Deep Blue Something
Dallas pop band attempt to export their success.
Hop and Grape,
Manchester University,
Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Tonight, 7.30pm; £5.

Johnny Mathis
The American balladeer sings *All About Love*.
Apollo Theatre,
Ardwick Green (0161-242 2560). Tonight, 7pm; £25-£27.50.

SOUTHAMPTON
Honeyboy Edwards
Octogenarian delta bluesman, a contemporary of Big Joe Williams.
The Brook,
Portswood Road (01703 555366). Tonight, 8pm; £6.

BOOK

■ **LONDON**

Geoffrey Hazard
Extracts from the poet's latest work.
Torriano Meeting House,
Torriano Avenue, NW5 (0171-267 2751). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £2, concs £1.

■ **REGIONAL**

EDINBURGH
The Edinburgh Literary Pub Tour
Zany tour led by professional actors from Edinburgh.
The Beehive Inn,
The Grassmarket (0131-554 0777). Tonight, 6pm, tomorrow, 1pm and 6pm; £6, concs £5.

DANCE

■ **LONDON**

Alpana Sengupta Dance Company: An Evening of Kathak
The traditional style of the Raigarh school, accompanied by live music.
Watermans Arts Centre,
High Street, TW8 (0181-568 1176). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £7.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ADVENTURES IN MOTION PICTURES: SWAN LAKE
Matthew Bourne makes a little bit of history with the West End debüt of his *Swan Lake*. It is rare for dance to get a look-in in the West End, but if any production has a chance in commercial terms this is it. Bourne's theatrical adaptation features an all-male corps de ballet of swans, and plenty of good-humoured digs at the royal family, along with some moments of surprisingly effective drama.

DEBRA CRAINE

Piccadilly Theatre,
Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734). Today, 2.30pm (soloists: Kemp/Wright Mortimer), and 7.30pm (Cooper/Ambler/Chadwick): £9.50-£30, standby concs available.

■ **REGIONAL**

BRISTOL
Dublin Worldwide Dance Productions: Spirit of the Dance
Harp and New Orleans Gospel are two of the stylistic influences in this eclectic mix featuring work by Irish, Russian and American companies.
Hippodrome Theatre,
St Augustine's Parade (0117-929 9444). Tonight, 7.30pm; £12.50-£16.50.

CARLISLE
Jaleo: Flamenco
Feisty new programme featuring music, dance and song from the acclaimed Spanish company.
Stanwix Arts Theatre,
Brampton Road (01228 512444). Tonight, 8pm: £6, concs £3-£4.

FAIRS

■ **LONDON**

Autumn Needlecraft Fair
Series of lectures, workshops and displays.
Olympia,
Hammersmith Road, W14 (0171-603 3344). Today, 9.30am-5.30pm, tomorrow, 9.30am-5pm; £6.50-£8.50, child £1 (in adv).

Chelsea Antiques Fair
Collectables from more than 40 British exhibitors.
Chelsea Old Town Hall,
King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3619). Today, tomorrow, 11am-6pm; £5, child free.

Heritage Antiques Fair
Silver, glass, jewellery, enamels, prints, paintings.
London Hilton Hotel,
Park Lane, W1 (0171-493 8000). Tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £1, child free.

Latin American Film Festival
Latin American film festival including showings of *Lone Star* and *Memories of Underdevelopment*.
Various venues,
(0171-434 3357). Today, tomorrow, phone for details.

The London International Fair
Displays of antique dolls, miniatures and teddy bears.
Kensington Town Hall,
Hornton Street, W8 (0171-937 5464). Tomorrow, 11am-5pm; phone for details.

The Spitalfields Show
Annual show for the green-fingered enthusiast.
Spitalfields,
E1. Tomorrow, midday-4pm; free.

■ **REGIONAL**

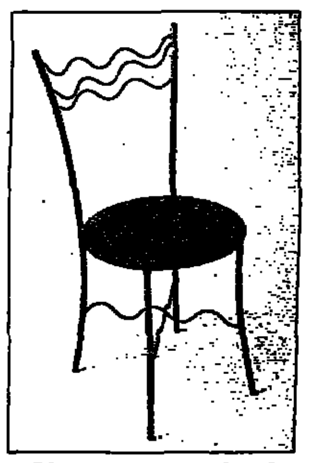
Heritage Open Days
Rare chance to see inside England's finest properties.
Various venues,
(0891 600603). Today, tomorrow, phone for details; admission free.

BIRMINGHAM
Black Hair and Beauty Fair
Beauty show featuring hairdressers, make-up artists, demonstrations and merchandise.
International Convention Centre,
(0121-212 3333). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; £6-£12.

BOURNEMOUTH
Hot Ice Show
Ice extravaganza.
Bournemouth International Centre,
Exeter Road (01202 297297). Ends today, 2.30pm and 8pm; £14-£5.

GLASGOW
Glasgow International Festival of Design
The best in innovative design, such as Rob Mullholland's Alba Café chair (pictured).
Information,
Various venues (0141-204 4411). Today, times vary.

MANCHESTER
Manchester International Antique and Collectors Fair
International collectors and dealers gather at this established annual fair of around 100 stands.
G-Mex Centre,
Windmill Street (01636 702326). Tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £3, child free.

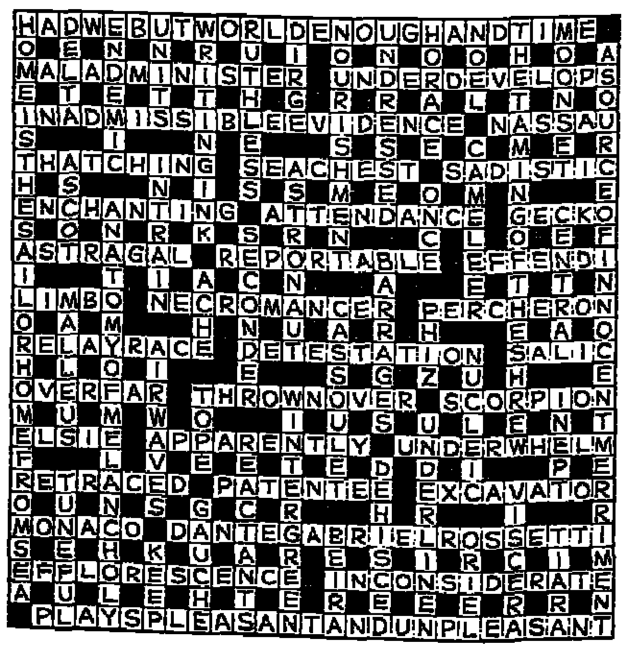

Glasgow International Festival of Design

PERTH
Battle of the Clans Day
Re-enactment of the 600-year-old Highland battle, featuring a colourful parade of clans, pipe bands, period costumes and mini-Highland games.
North Inch,
Perth (01738 638353). Today, from 11am: free.

SOUTHAMPTON
International Boat Show
More than 600 craft on display at the impressive on-water boat show.
Western Esplanade,
(01784 473377). Today, tomorrow, 10am-7pm: £7.50, child free.

SPALDING
Springfields Flower Show
Bursts of colour extend the remainder of summer.
Springfields Show Gardens,
(01775 724843). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm: £3.50, concs £3, child free.

Summer Jumbo



Here is the solution to the prize crossword published on Saturday August 24. The winners, who each receive £100, are: R.E.W. Roberts, Hereford; George W.J. Shepheard, Leeds; Mrs Charlotte Whyman, Somerset; Rosemary Bibby, Hampshire; Lady Pamela Lever, Roxburghshire; and Hubert Dingwall, Bishop Auckland.

GOING OUT

GALLERIES

■ **LONDON**

Assembling the Family
An exploration of the genre of the family portrait.
National Portrait Gallery,
St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, midday-6pm; free.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

BLUMENFELD

Erwin Blumenfeld's fame as a fashion photographer for *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* has obscured his many other talents and the complex personality behind them. His "fetish for beauty", as the subtitle of this comprehensive retrospective has it, is certainly visible throughout his long career, but is accompanied by an obsession with themes of sleep and death, grounded in his First World War experiences. The show also makes great play with the collages, drawings and texts of his Dada time, which offer a less reassuring image. Blumenfeld's great period was from 1938, when Cecil Beaton introduced him to *Vogue* and he was immediately put under contract, to the 1950s, when he became less fashionable and went back to his more experimental work. There are gorgeous pictures of the grand and the glamorous, but many that are quite unexpected.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

***Barbican Art Gallery*,**
Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-588 9023). Today, 10am-6.45pm, tomorrow midday-6.45pm; £4.50.

Literati: Mark Gerson
Famous portraits from the world of literature.
National Portrait Gallery,
St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm, tomorrow, midday-6pm; free.

In fashion: Blumenfeld portrait, 1939, on show at the Barbican, London

Gravitaz
Platon and Peter Sanderson's innovative project using fashion photography and graphics.
Hamiltons Gallery,
Carlos Place, W1 (0171-499 9493). Today, 10am-6pm; free.

Richard Wilson: Jamming Gears
Inspiring site-specific work.
Serpentine Gallery,
Kensington Gardens, W2 (0171-402 6075). Today, tomorrow, 10am-6pm; free.

■ **REGIONAL**

BIRMINGHAM
Eve Arnold: In Retrospect
Work spanning 40 years from Magnum's finest photojournalist.
Ikon Gallery,
John Bright Street (0121-643 0708). Today, 11am-6pm; free.

DURHAM
Bill Viola
Site-specific work from the master of the video spectacle.
Durham Cathedral,
Palace Green (0191-384 3720/386 4266). Today, tomorrow, phone for times; free.

EDINBURGH
Alberto Giacometti
Comprehensive survey of work by one of art's greats.
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art,
Belford Road (0131-556 8921). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2-5pm; £4, concs £2.50.

Callum Innes
Series of paintings by the abstract artist.
Inverleith House, Royal Botanic Gardens,
Inverleith Row (0131-552 7171). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5pm; free.

Leeds: David Nash
Prominent artist's sculptures from wood.
Henry Moore Institute,
The Headrow (0113-246 7467). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm; free.

ST IVES
Mark Rothko in Cornwall
Rothko's work in context with Patrick Heron, Peter Lanyon and other St Ives artists.
St Ives Tate Gallery,
Porthmeor Beach (01736 796226). Today, 11am-7pm, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £3.

COMING SOON

■ **LONDON**

From Sep 18
A Midsummer Night's Dream
English National Opera revives the production by Robert Carsen of Benjamin Britten's magical opera, with Lillian Watson singing the role of Titania. Box office: 0171-632 8300.

Sep 19-Nov 17
Robert Mapplethorpe
The most complete retrospective of the controversial photographer's work is presented at the Hayward Gallery. More information: 0171-460 4242.

Sep 30
Steve Reich
The composer, who is joined by his ensemble, celebrates his 60th birthday with a concert featuring three classic works, as well as three new ones, at the Festival Hall. Box office: 0171-960 4242.

From Oct 4
The Alchemist
Simon Callow, Josie Lawrence and Tim Pigott-Smith star in a new production by Bill Alexander of Ben Jonson's classic Jacobean comedy at the National's Olivier Theatre. Box office: 0171-928 2252.

■ **REGIONAL**

LEATHERHEAD
Sep 17-Oct 5
Night Must Fall
Jason Donovan stars opposite Hayley Mills in a new production of the thriller by Emlyn Williams at the Thorndike Theatre. Box office: 01372 377677.

London: Robert Mapplethorpe's work at the Hayward Gallery

CHICHESTER
Oct 10-Nov 2
Lock Up Your Daughters
Sheila Hancock and George Cole star in a revival of the musical that is based on Henry Fielding's *Rape Upon Rape*. Box office: 01243 781312.

OLDHAM
Oct 2-26
Marlene
Sian Phillips plays the title role of Marlene Dietrich in this new play by Pam Gems, which is directed by Sian Mathias. Box office: 0161-624 2829.

PLYMOUTH
Sep 26-Oct 5
The Substance of Fire
Jon Robin Baitz's highly acclaimed American drama receives its British premiere at the Drum, Theatre Royal, Plymouth. Box office: 01752 267222.

JAZZ

■ **LONDON**

Ruby Braff Quartet
Bostonian cornet veteran with guitarist Howard Alden.
Pizza Express,
Dean Street, W1 (0171-439 8722). Tonight, tomorrow, 8pm; £20.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

ANNIE ROSS

A consummate interpreter of ballads and pioneer of that scat-tinged hybrid known as "vocalese", Annie Ross has combined a singing career with adventurous roles on stage and screen. She is ensconced in the Green Room for a three-week residency, accompanied by a trio featuring pianist Colin Purbrook.

CLIVE DAVIS

***Café Royal*,**
Regent St, London W1 (0171-437 9090). Tonight, 9.15pm; £25.

Ray Gelato and Alex Garnett's Tough Tenors
Tenor pairing with pianist Richard Busiakiewicz.
Bull's Head,
Lonsdale Road, SW13 (0181-876 5241). Tomorrow, 8pm; £5.

Elvin Jones Jazz Machine
John Coltrane's 1960s drummer, opposite diva Sarah Jane Morris.
Ronnie Scott's,
Frith Street, W1 (0171-439 0747). Tonight, 9pm; £12.

Danny Moss Quartet with Jim Mullen and John Pearce
Swing tenorist joins soul jazz guitar great Mullen and Pearce's piano trio.
Bull's Head,
Lonsdale Road, SW13 (0181-876 5241). Tonight, 8pm; £6.

Essex: jazz veteran Acker Bilk plays at Blue Mills

Roberto Pla's Latin Jazz Ensemble
Latin jazz 12-piece.
Jazz Café,
Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tonight, 7pm; £12.

■ **REGIONAL**

ASCOT
Spike Robinson
Sweet-toned American tenorist, influenced by Zoot Sims and Stan Getz.
Jazz at the Station,
Station Hill (01344 22361). Tomorrow, 12.30pm; £3.

CHESTER
Gary Potter Quartet
Gypsy jazz guitarist with bass legend Herbie Flowers, Django Bates, drummer Dave Trigwell and trumpeter Mark Jackson.
Alexander's Jazz Theatre,
Rufus Court (01244 340005). Tomorrow, 8pm; £4.

EDINBURGH
Blackan'ized
Soul-jazz and funk outfit featuring guitarist Kevin Mackenzie.
Henry's Cellar Bar,
Morrison Street, (0131-221 1288). Tonight, 10.30pm; £4.

ESSEX
Mr Ball Meets Mr Bilk
Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen and Acker Bilk and His Paramount Jazz Band.
Blue Mills,
Wickham Bishops, Witham (01621 891204). Tonight, 7.30pm; £17.50.

EXETER
Dave Gordon Trio
Top mainstream pianist.
Exeter and Devon Arts Centre,
Bradninch Place, Gandy Street (01392 421111). Tonight, 8pm; £7, concs £5.

GLASGOW
Jeannie Maxwell and the Jazzwegians
Traddy Scots diva.
Bourbon Street,
George Street (0141-552 0141). Tomorrow, 8.30pm; free.

Laura MacDonald/Nigel Clark/Ewan Vernal
Saxophone prodigy with guitar and bass support.
Bourbon Street,
George Street (0141-552 0141). Today, 2.30pm; free.

HAWICK
Tam White and His Shoestring Band
Gravel-voiced stonemason-cum-bluester.
Melgund Bar,
O'Connell Street (01450 372547). Tonight, 8pm; £3.50.

LEEDS
Brother Jack McDuff
Soul-jazz Hammond organist.
Yardbird Suite Jazz Club,
The Underground, T&C Club, Cookridge Street (0113-230 2669). Tonight, 8.30pm; £7.

RELIGION

■ **REGIONAL**

CHICHESTER
In honour of the Holy Cross weekend, Chichester Cathedral is holding a special celebratory service on Saturday to highlight the unity of the Cross with God. Representatives from parishes and deaneries across Britain will be present. The service will begin at midday and features a 10ft by 6ft high Cross built like a jigsaw. Dr Eric Kemp, the Bishop of Chichester, will put the final unifying piece in place.
Chichester Cathedral,
(01273 421021). Today, midday.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE,
Fretherne with Saul
As part of the Civic Trust "Heritage Days" on September 14 and 15, the church of Saint Mary the Virgin will be holding a Victorian evening. Starting at 6pm on Sunday, the congregation will be dressed in period costume to match the age of this 19th-century church which also features original Victorian glass and an ornate painted ceiling.
Saint Mary the Virgin,
Severnside (01452 740671). Today and tomorrow; Victorian evening tomorrow, from 6pm.

NEWBURY
Reading Phoenix Choir
A rare chance to see what was once described as "possibly one of the finest mixed-voice choir of its size in Europe" perform in a small country church. Bob Chilcott, of the Kings Singers, will be joining the choir.
Church of the Ascension,
Burghclere (two miles south of Newbury) (01635 278470). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £5.

OPERA

■ **LONDON**

Don Giovanni
Travelling Opera stages Mozart's black comedy.
Barbican Hall,
Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight, 7.30pm; £12.50-£19.

The Magic Flute
David Freeman directs Mozart's comedy, staged by Opera Factory.
Queen Elizabeth Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.15pm; £12-£30.

La Traviata
Jonathan Miller directs Verdi's opera in a new English National Opera production, featuring Rosa Mannion as Violetta.
London Coliseum,
St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-632 8300). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6.50-£55.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LA BOHEME

The Royal Opera launches its Golden Jubilee season with a 15-performance run of Puccini's tearjerker in John Copley's popular 22-year-old production, prudently engaging multiple casts to shoulder the burden, plus Copley himself to spruce it all up. Tonight's performance is led by Amanda Roocroft and Luis Lima, with the Romanian conductor Christian Badea making his house debut.

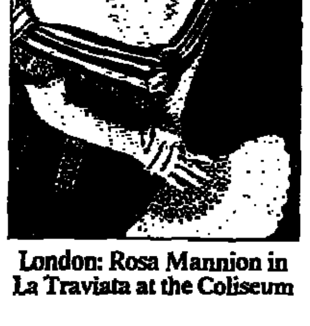
RODNEY MILNES

***Royal Opera House*,**
Bow Street, London WC2 (0171-304 4000). Today, 7.30pm; £11-£130.

■ **REGIONAL**

CARDIFF
Don Giovanni
Welsh National Opera stages Mozart, directed by Katie Mitchell.
New Theatre,
Park Place (01222 878889). Tonight, 7.15pm; £8-£45.

EDINBURGH
Albert Herring
Jamie Hayes directs British Youth Opera's production of Britten's comedy.
Festival Theatre,
Nicolson Street (0131-529 6000). Tonight, 7.15pm; £5.50-£17.50.



London: Rosa Mannion in La Traviata at the Coliseum

FILM

Films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

■ **NEW RELEASES**

L'Amore Molesto (15)
A woman grapples with her mother's bizarre death. Compelling and stylish psychological drama from Italian director Mario Martone.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

CRITIC'S CHOICE

◆ EMMA (U)

Young American actress Gwyneth Paltrow shines as Jane Austen's matchmaking heroine, who presumes to know others' hearts without listening to her own. Her surroundings are too pretty-pretty, bathed in soft-focus sunshine; and Douglas McGrath, the director and screenwriter, is prone to gallop through the novel. But the film is civilised, wears a smile and makes the best of its cast, which includes Jeremy Northam, Toni Colette, Sophie Thompson, Juliet Stevenson.

GEOFF BROWN

***Barbican* ♿ (0171-638 8891) *Chelsea* (0171-351 3742) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *Minema* (0171-235 4225) *Odeons: Haymarket* (01426 915353) *Kensington* (01426 914666) *Renoir* (0171-837 8402) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *Screen/Baker Street* (0171-935 2772) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Warner* ♿ (0171-437 4343)**

Le Mepris (15)
Gleaming revival of Jean-Luc Godard's 1963 fable about integrity, cinema, men and women. With Brigitte Bardot, Michel Piccoli and Jack Palance.
Everyman (0171-435 1525)

◆ **A Time to Kill** (15)
White lawyer defends black man, and the Ku Klux Klan wake up. Powerful adaptation of John Grisham's novel. With Samuel L. Jackson, Matthew McConaughey and Sandra Bullock. Director, Joel Schumacher.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *Barbican* ♿ (0171-638 8891) *Clapham Picture House* (0171-498 3323) *MGM Baker Street* (0171-935 9772) *Notting Hill Coronet* ♿ (0171-727 6705) *Rio* (0171-254 6677) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *Screen on the Green* (0171-226 3520) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Haymarket* (0171-839 1527) *Trocadero* ♿ (0171-434 0031) *Warner* (0171-437 4343)

■ **CURRENT**

The Crossing Guard (15)
Grieving father (Jack Nicholson) plots revenge for his daughter's death. Portentous drama from writer-director Sean Penn.
MGM Swiss Centre (0171-439 4470)

◆ **Diabolique** (18)
Foolish remake of *Les Diaboliques*, with Sharon Stone and Isabelle Adjani as the women plotting a male brute's murder.
UCI Whiteleys ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Trocadero* (0171-434 0031) *Warner West End* (0171-437 4343)

◆ **Eraser** (18)
Dishevelled Arnold Schwarzenegger vehicle, with Vanessa Brown, James Caan, and mayhem galore.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Trocadero* ♿ (0171-434 0031) *Warner* ♿ (0171-437 4343)

Critic's Choice: *Emma*, starring Gwyneth Paltrow

◆ **Independence Day** (12)
Aliens invade America's skies in this outsize popcorn feast starring Jeff Goldblum, Will Smith and Bill Pullman. Director, Roland Emmerich.
ABC Tottenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) *MGM Baker Street* (0171-935 9772) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426-914 666) *Leicester Square* (01426 915 683) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-792 3332) *Virgin Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636)

◆ **Mission: Impossible** (PG)
Rousing set-pieces dwarf the stars, even Tom Cruise's special agent, in this enjoyable revival of the television series. With Jon Voight, Vanessa Redgrave and Emmanuelle Béart. Director, Brian De Palma.
Empire (0990 888 990) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgin Trocadero* ♿ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **Mulholland Falls** (15)
Handsome but muted mystery thriller, set in 1950s Los Angeles, with Nick Nolte and John Malkovich. Director, Lee Tamahori.
ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) *Odeons: Kensington* (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgins: Chelsea* (0171-352 5096) *Haymarket* (0171-839 1527)

The Perez Family (15)
Wayward tale about Cuban immigrants in Miami, with Marisa Tomei, Alfred Molina and Anjelica Huston. Director, Mira Nair.
Plaza ♿ (0990 888990)

◆ **Phenomenon** (PG)
John Travolta's IQ gets a booster shot. Increasingly mawkish comic fantasy. With Kyra Sedgwick. Director, Jon Turtletaub.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) *Swiss Cottage* (01426 914098) *West End* (01426-915 574) *UCI Whiteleys* ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096)

◆ **Stealing Beauty** (15)
Light and enjoyable Bertolucci film about an American teenager's sexual flowering in Tuscany. With Liv Tyler, Jeremy Irons and Sinead Cusack.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) *Gate* (0171-727 4043) *Lumiere* (0171-836 0691) *Phoenix* (0181-883 2233) *Rio* (0171-254 6677) *Ritzy* (0171-737 2121) *Screen on Baker Street* (0171-935 2772) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-352 5096) *Watermans* (0181-568 1176)

◆ **The Truth About Cats and Dogs** (15)
Pleasant romantic comedy about mistaken identity, with Janeane Garofalo, Uma Thurman and Ben Chaplin.
Plaza ♿ (0990 888990) *Virgin Fulham Road* (0171-370 2636) *Warner* (0171-437 4343)

CLASSICAL

■ **LONDON**

Andrew Hubbard
The pianist plays Chopin, plus Bartók Dances.
St Cyprian's Church,
Glentworth Street, NW1 (0171-916 0180). Tomorrow, 7pm; £12, concs £8.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS

Three simultaneous experiences: live in the Albert Hall; live in Hyde Park, with its own first half (including Maria Ewing and the Labèque sisters), before linking up with the Albert Hall via two giant screens; or live on television. Andrew Davis conducts the main proceedings, which includes the London premiere of *Concerto in Pieces* by Danish composer Poul Ruders.

RICHARD MORRISON

***Albert Hall*,**
Kensington Gore, London SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm;
Hyde Park, Marble Arch
(tickets 0171-413 3571, or from the Albert Hall). Today, from 4pm.

Soloists of the Royal Opera House Orchestra/Haitink
Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale*; Wagner's *Siegfried Idyll*.
Wigmore Hall,
Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow, 7pm; £6-£12.

■ **REGIONAL**

HALIFAX
The Seasons of Vivaldi
Performed by the Manchester Camerata and Compact Opera.
Victoria Theatre,
Wards End (01422 351158). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8.50-£12.50.

LLANTWIT MAJOR
Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir/Kaljuste
Veljo Tormis's selection of *Forgotten Peoples* and *Calendar Songs*.
Bradenstoke Hall,
St Donat's Castle (01446-794

Ruth Gledhill rose at dawn, but did not meet the Hindu holy woman

A broken date with the deity

UNABLE to resist the chance to meet the living incarnation of a Goddess, I responded to an invitation to "experience the unconditional love of divine mother", turning out at an unearthly hour of the morning to seek *nirvana*, the quenching of a thirst. We were in a relatively new "mother" temple, hidden discreetly down a tiny pathway behind the carefully-manicured suburbs of Stoneleigh near Epsom in Surrey. The service was a *satsangum*, a get together with Bhagavati Sri Sri Sri Vijayeswari Devi, regarded as the incarnation of Sarasvati, Goddess of knowledge, creativity and eloquence.

The building, formerly a church, is bleak and depressing and does not do justice to the spiritual riches of the 500-strong Hindu community which worships there. We sat cross-legged and shoeless before a closed, dark red curtain, behind which was seated a statue of the deity, Sri Raja Rajeswary, the divine mother herself, her two sons Ganesh and Murgan beside her.

The deities were "resting", I was told. On a podium were representations of the nine planets, all looking in different directions so as to avoid looking at each other. One stared directly at me and at the temple secretary beside me, Iswari Kamalabaskaran. At the back her husband, a local doctor who is also involved with the temple, helped the service run smoothly. Most towns in India have a mother temple. They are popular with women, because in them motherhood is revered.

As we waited for the curtains to be opened and the deities to be revealed — when there would be a time for personal prayer and intercession — the priest, robed in traditional red, walked round the temple with incense, a bell and an offering of milk, invoking blessings of the deities both visible and invisible.

Nearly an hour had passed and we were still waiting for Sri Vijayeswari, whose name derives from the day of her birth, a day said to be the most auspicious in the Hindu calendar. Her birth followed a rare prophecy by a silent deity, and from her early childhood she was worshipped by her family, her local community and by Hindu religious leaders. She is credited with miraculous deeds, brilliance, unfailing poise and infinite sweetness and from childhood has spent many hours in meditation. Her mission, to bring peace and God-consciousness to the world, began after she meditated in a locked room for a month, and emerged flooded with light and bearing a divine fragrance.

Her visit to Britain this week was her second tour outside India, where she has a huge following of many thousands. Her programme was intense, with four services, a press conference and a public reception packed into four days. Looking over the schedule, I had imagined that it might take its toll. And so it proved. An hour had passed, and we received the message that Sri Vijayeswari was unwell and exhausted. She needed time to rest, to prepare herself for the public reception with Toby Jessell, MP for Twickenham, chairman of the Indo-British parliamentary group, the following day. Although many had travelled long distances to be there, none of us seemed to mind. Her absence, we felt, just went to show that even Gods, at times, are only human.

Sri Raja Rajeswary Amman Temple, Dell Lane, Stoneleigh, Surrey, KT17 2NE. Friends of Karunamayi, Tel: 0181-542 8628.

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A five-star guide* ★

PRIEST: Swaminathan Sivacharya

ARCHITECTURE: Nothing but a ghostly shell remains of this former church

SERMON: None here, although most temple services include a talk on the Hindu scriptures, which offer a complex but highly ethical approach to mortal life, the aim being to achieve release from the endless cycle of rebirth

MUSIC AND LITURGY: Traditional temple music, featuring a flute-like instrument, a *nageswaram*, was relayed to us through a sound system. Peaceful and calming.★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Womanly and liberating.★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Local Hindus cook wonderful meals after Tuesday and Friday evening services.★★★★

Nomads gather for a party feast

Feather Report

NEARLY everyone who has a garden knows the song thrush, even though its numbers have declined recently.

The mistle (or missel) thrush is another story. It is a larger, shyer bird, with bolder spots on the breast, and white underwings that flash as it flies up. It looks almost as big as a pigeon or sparrowhawk when it is flying.

This is the one time of year when you see mistle thrushes in groups, rather than alone or in pairs. Loosely-knit family parties gather to feed on playing fields or other open stretches of grass. They are nomadic birds in the latter part of the year, but when one of them finds a holly tree covered with berries, or a wall adorned with ivy coming into fruit, it will make this the centre of a small territory and defend it against other mistle thrushes and blackbirds.

However, they are not hasty or greedy. At first, they will feed mainly on insects or other small creatures in the area around the holly or the ivy. They will keep the berries until later in the year, when the ground is hard or covered with snow and other food is inaccessible.

They chase off their rivals fiercely but silently. It is only when a large invading party comes along that you hear a lot of noise, with all of them making their rasping, churring calls.

Their song is much more beautiful. It is a wild outburst of notes, delivered usually from the top branch of a tall tree. But it has an oddly abrupt ending each time, as though the singer had been cut off. Song thrushes begin singing, at any rate in the south of England, some time in November, but mistle thrushes are not much heard before Christmas. They continue singing up to midsummer, but I always think of their song as a winter song.

DERWENT MAY

- **What's about:** *Birders — Listen for tawny owls calling to establish their winter territories. Twitchers — lesser grey shrike, Burnham Overy, Norfolk: greenish warbler, Filey, North Yorkshire: buff-breasted and pectoral sandpipers, Abberton reservoir, Essex. Details from Birdline (0891 700222) 40p a min cheap rate, 50p at other times.*

PETER BROWN

Mistle thrushes are larger and shyer than their cousins

Clean, friendly, inquisitive and easy to tame: the gerbil is a strong contender for the perfect first pet

I.R.BEAMES/ARDEA

From the arid regions of Africa and Asia, gerbils have been popular in Britain since the 1960s. But beware, that male and female you bought for company will breed every three weeks

Homely oasis for a desert rat

Fifteen years ago Jackie Roswell was given a gerbil as a present. Today she has 150 of them in her Surrey home — and the number is still rising. If anxious parents see this as a warning, they should note that Mrs Roswell's brood was no accident. She planned to have that many gerbils, keeping them for either breeding or showing. However, it is true that the gerbil can be a prolific creature.

"Gerbils make brilliant pets," says Linda Walker, the keeper in charge of the Children's Zoo at London Zoo, where the pet care centre has a small number in a big glass tank. "They are fascinating animals to keep and to watch. They are active by day and night, they are very clean and don't smell, and they are easily handled — that is, as long as you are gentle with them and you start handling them when they are young."

Never pick them up by the tail, though, because it can come away in your hand, an escape mechanism which the animals use in the wild if another creature tries to get hold of them. It can only be used once, though, because the tail does not grow back.

Gerbils have only been kept as pets in Britain since the 1960s. In the desert and semi-desert conditions of Africa and central Asia there are more than 80 different species of this rodent, although the most popular one in Britain is the Mongolian gerbil because it is friendly, inquisitive and easy to tame.

An average price for a young gerbil, either bought from a pet shop or a breeder, is £4. Mrs Roswell, who is the secretary of the National Gerbil Society, a 150-member organisation which has a Web site (see box) and links with similar organisations abroad, recommends buying a gerbil at betweerr six to eight weeks of age. At this stage, it is old enough to be separated from its parents but young enough to be tamed quite easily.

The Golden Agouti, sandy in colour with dark hairs down the length of its spine, is the most popular variety, but there are many other colours including black and white.

Because they are such sociable creatures, it is best to keep two or more in a cage rather than just one, but there can be problems. Females from the same litter are better disposed towards each other than males. Introducing adults of either sex from different litters is not advised because they will fight. An adult is any gerbil older than 13 weeks, and the best age to introduce new animals is eight weeks.

If you want to breed gerbils then make the obvious match but be warned: they start early at between eight and 12 weeks. Females come into season for only a few hours roughly every six days.

Pregnancy itself lasts just over three weeks but after giving birth the female will come into season again immediately. The female's reproductive life varies from seven to 20 months. An average litter size is four to six while the maximum number of litters is usually about ten.

At home, gerbils can either live in a plastic-bottomed cage with wire top and sides, or in what is termed a gerbilarium, a large aquarium tank with wire mesh cover, which can be bought new for about £30. The latter has the advantage of allowing owners easy observation of these busy little animals and, because they love digging and burrowing, it stops their bed from spilling out all over the floor.

That bed should be six to eight inches in depth and made from wood shavings and dry peat or recycled paper (ink from newspaper may poison them). The Children's Zoo at London Zoo keeps its gerbils in a mixture of peat and sand. Avoid very fine sawdust because it might affect their ears and eyes. The depth gives them plenty of scope to tunnel. Cages should be placed out of direct sunlight and away from draught.

One thing to remember is how adept gerbils are at the art of escape. One young owner, Tom Botterill, remembers only too clearly his disappointment some years ago when he returned from school to find that his two male gerbils had burrowed out of their run in the garden.

Since then the Botterills have seen large numbers of gerbils pass through their Cumbrian home. "After the others had escaped I got a pair called Salt and Pepper, which I thought were males but a few months later seven babies appeared. Over two years Salt and Pepper have had eight litters. Most of the gerbils I gave away to friends," Tom, 14, says.

Gerbils do not often nip or bite their owners but Tom can vouch for their sharp teeth: "One of them chewed through the bars where it had been soldered together, and another one chewed up a plastic wheel which was in the cage."

When it comes to real food, though, the maxim is "don't overfeed". Gerbils should be given a dessertspoonful of food a day. This should be made up of a typical hamster mix available from pet shops supplemented with raw vegetables. Always clear away the left overs every day.

In the desert gerbils don't get much water so they take very little when they are kept as pets. A water bottle on the side of the cage is preferable to a dish in the cage, which may well get buried by tunnelling. Always keep the water fresh.

Gerbils excrete little, so the need for cleaning out their home is greatly reduced. Once every three or four weeks should be adequate, although a thorough wash of the cage or gerbilarium with soapy water is recommended about three times a year.

Mrs Roswell says gerbils should always have a piece of wood in their cage to gnaw on, while a cardboard tube gives them hours of endless tunnelling pleasure. A toilet roll tube chewing contest is often on the agenda at gerbil shows, so your cardboard may not last that long.

Gerbils are generally healthy creatures — sore noses from bar chewing is the most common complaint — with an average lifespan of three years. "For me, their endearing traits are when they stand on their hind legs and look around and when they groom each other. One will do the grooming and the other will lie back and enjoy it," Mrs Roswell says.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

THE LOWDOWN ON GERBILS

■ **The National Gerbil Society: 373 Lynmouth Avenue, Morden, Surrey SM4 4RY (0181-241 8942): email: Jackie@rodent.demon.co.uk; Web site: www.rodent.demon.co.uk/gerbils/**

■ **London Championship Show: Luton Regional Sports Centre, Luton, Bedfordshire. Two-day event for rabbits and cavies but gerbils *only* there on Saturday, November 2, 11am-4.30pm. Price: £2.50 adults, £1.50p children. Details: 0181-241 8942.**

■ **London Zoo: adults £7.80, children £5.70. Open 10am-5.30pm until October 28, when 10am-4pm. Gerbil pet care leaflet available from Education Department, London Zoo, Regent's Park, London NW1 4RY (£1 incl p&p, make cheque payable to Zoological Society of London).**

■ **Books: *Care for Your Gerbil — the Official RSPCA Pet Guide* (HarperCollins, £3.50): *Gerbils and Jirds* by Brian Leiper (Basset Publications, £3.50); *Gerbils* by Raymond Gudas (Barron's Educational Series, £4.50): *The Proper Care of Gerbils* by Anmarie Barrie (TFH Publications, £10.95).**

A long life in the slow lane

A Vet Writes . . .

EVERYONE IS living longer nowadays, and pet owners longer still. A pet's longevity varies from one species to another for various reasons — some of them contradictory.

Size is important. Tiny animals have short lives. Few mice celebrate three birthdays, although one is supposed to have lasted for seven years, seven months. Hamsters struggle to reach their fourth birthday, rats may celebrate five anniversaries, guinea pigs can look forward to seven and rabbits reach double figures.

But then we get to dogs. The smaller varieties live longer. The giants — St Bernards, Great Danes, Irish wolfhounds, tipping the scales at 50kg — are very old at ten. That's middle-age to the little ones, weighing 10kg or less — Cairns, Poms, Jack Russells and Pekes go on to their late teens and beyond.

Cats usually live longer than dogs. Many reach 20 years, and the oldest cats on record passed their 30th birthday. At least three of them lived in Devon — must be something to do with the cream.

Think about lifespan when choosing a pet. Hamsters, mice and gerbils will have departed this life when their ten-year-old owner reaches 14. But a rabbit may live long enough to attend the christening of its young owner's first-born.

Big birds live longer than little ones. Most budgies and canaries are old at 12, but large parrots can outlive their owners. Macaws and cockatoos go on into their seventies and some have reached 100.

Tortoises have very long lives — perhaps because they exert themselves only rarely and retreat into their shells when life gets stressful. A spur-thighed tortoise called Ali Pasha, picked up from the beach in 1915 during the Gallipoli landings, must have been close to his 100th birthday when he died recently. A radiated tortoise given to Captain Cook in 1777 survived until 1966 — 189 years.

If you believe in reincarnation and want to return to the longest life possible, come back as a tortoise.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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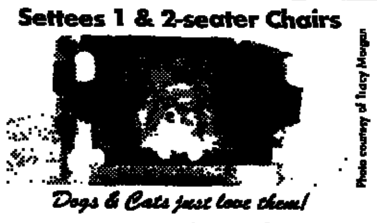

Photo courtesy of Tracy Morgan

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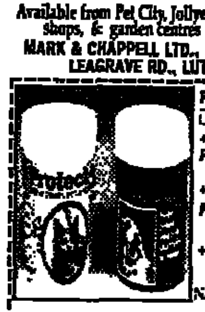

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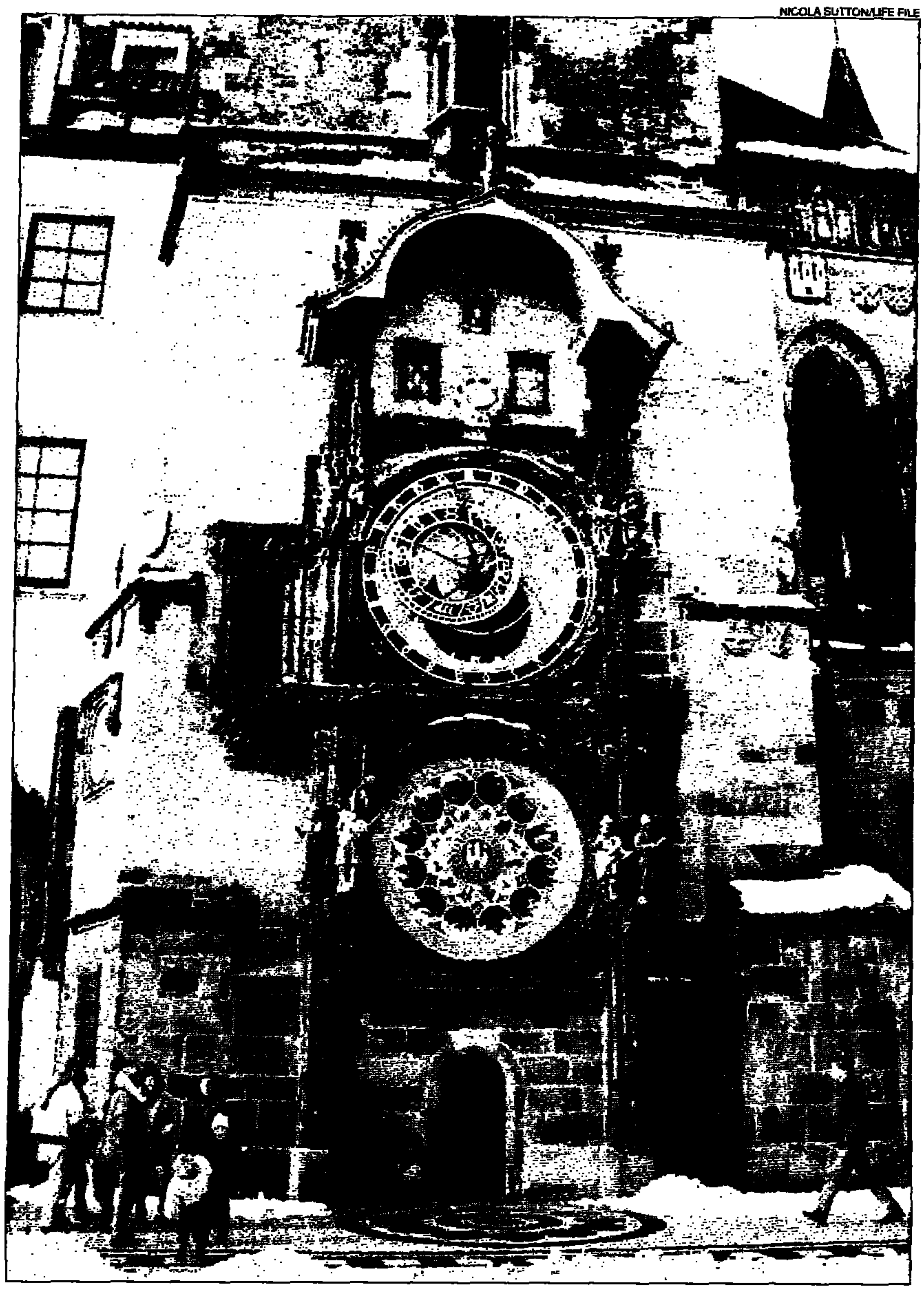
هكذا من الاهل

Christmas holidays: A four-page festive special starts with the splendours of Prague and deserted Venice

In love with a cold climate


NICOLA SUTTON/LIFE FILE

The town hall in Prague's Old Square which is best seen at night, when floodlighting makes the snow magical

There never was a King Wenceslas, good or otherwise. The 10th-century Duke of Bohemia of that name must, however, have been a pretty decent fellow, since Prague's vast 600-year-old central square is named after him, and his statue crowns its sensational vista.

I had coffee (with whipped cream, it goes without saying, in this increasingly sybaritic city) at the swirlingly Art Nouveau Grand Hotel Europa, where it had been worth fighting for a seat to get a window position. From there — on the Feast of Stephen, Boxing Day — I could look out on the snow which lay round about the square, reasonably crisp and even, though not excessively deep.

Vaclavske namesti (its Czech name) was swarming with tourists, all paying no attention whatever to traffic rules. When I first visited the square, before the Communists were evicted in 1989, one of the grimly authoritarian police tried to arrest me for crossing in the wrong place.

Now — as I found on returning to the city on an eminently civilised, art-orientated, Christmas tour — in Vaclav Havel's Czech Republic almost anything goes.

But not all manifestations are attractive. Western commercialism has embellished too many of Prague's stunning buildings with tawdry advertisements for multinational consumer products.

Wenceslas Square is lined with shops selling junk. A handsome mid-18th-century pink-faced baroque palace has been turned into the Black Jack casino.

The city's taxi-drivers would win an Olympic gold medal for rapacious rip-offs, their meters whizzing brazenly round like roulette wheels gone berserk.

I got to the stage where I ignored the demanded fare and paid what I thought the trip had been worth, a course of action which met with only token expostulation from the ruffian-like drivers.

Yet, if liberty has bedizened the prettiest of European capital cities with such ultra-commercialism that even ambulances are sponsored, the end of Communism has meant that the Czechs can now welcome visitors with attractive hotels and with a huge choice of acceptable restaurants, instead of the former dour handful of eating places where patrons were lucky to find even a few offerings.

Prague, in fact, now has all the appurtenances needed to please tourists, including shops worth shopping in — for Bohemian glass and the local speciality of garnet jewellery.

But the greatest pleasure is, of course, Prague itself. Look down from the heights of the vast, fairytale castle and you see a city of spires and towers scattered on either side of Smetana's Vltava river. The view, more dazzling than that of Florence (with green roofs instead of the Tuscan red), is made even more wondrous by winter's white ornamentation.

Wander around the castle and its purlieus, which include the gloomily Gothic St Vitus's cathedral (started in 1344, finished in 1929) and the National Art Gallery, with its unparalleled collection of medieval paintings. Among these, a gorgeous seven-section Annunciation provoked me into planning an art-heist.

Saunter down the castle hill, by way of the Mala Strana (the Small Quarter) and cross the Vltava by the Charles Bridge, a spectacle in itself which, girt with vendors' stalls, is a Central European Ponte Vecchio. Venture into the baroque St Nicholas's church, so fanciful you feel as if you are inside a wedding cake.

On guard in the city

FACT FILE

■ Martin Randall Travel, 10 Barley Mow Passage, London W4 (0181-742 3355) will run a trip to Prague from December 21-27 at a cost of £1,240 per person sharing. The price includes return flights on Czech Airlines, taxes, some taxis, trams, metro and coaches: a full programme of visits to churches and museums in Prague and also, beyond, to villa Troia, Kotná Hora and a country house, guided by the lecturer Jarl Kremeir and accompanied by a Czech escort (admission charges and tips, art history notes and a detailed itinerary are also included in the price); B&B in the 4-star hotel Grand Bohemia, in Prague's old town; also four dinners and two restaurant lunches.

■ Further information: the Czech Tourist Office (0171-794 3263) can advise on accommodation and arrange bookings.

And then you are in Old Town Square, where the intoxicating medley of buildings includes the best glass shop in town and the house where Kafka is said to have lived as a teenager. The square's huge space, filled with more market stalls, in December is adorned with a huge, bossy Christmas tree surrounded by smaller, humbler ones: the leaves of all of them laden with genuine, as distinct from tinsel, snow. A jazz band brightens things up even further. Return at night, when floodlighting makes the snow-bedecked scene magical.

A few minutes' walk away — Prague is a city for walking — is an area where Christmas is not celebrated and which, first under the Nazis and then under the Communists, for half a century was not allowed to celebrate anything else: Josefov, the oldest surviving Jewish quarter in Europe.

Freedom has vulgarised even this place, which is over-protected by thuggish young security men who do not permit access to, or even photography of, the ancient cemetery, with its thousands of tombstones.

Even so, the place manages to be beautiful and moving. The quaint 13th-century Old-New synagogue persisted in maintaining worship under the Communists. On the walls of the more imposing 16th-century Pinkas synagogue are inscribed the names of thousands of Nazi victims.

Even with grim memories of the past, it is impossible to be sad for long in Prague. If all else fails to lift the spirit, the music will succeed. At Christmas, in the castles, churches and palaces, there is music everywhere: Smetana, Dvorak, Janacek and Martinu, of course, but also unexpected composers. One concert poster promised Telemann, Bach — and Berlin. The work by Berlin (arranged by P Cibuch) was a little item called *White Christmas*.

Above all, there is Mozart. For while the Salzburg that made Mozart miserable in his lifetime now exploits him voraciously, Amadeus was cosseted in Prague where exteriors for the film of Peter Shaffer's play were filmed. At the Bertramka, a villa now turned Mozart museum, *Don Giovanni* was completed. The night before the dress rehearsal, its composer dined at Count Thun's palace, now the British Ambassador's residence. At the Estates theatre, *Don Giovanni* received its world premiere.

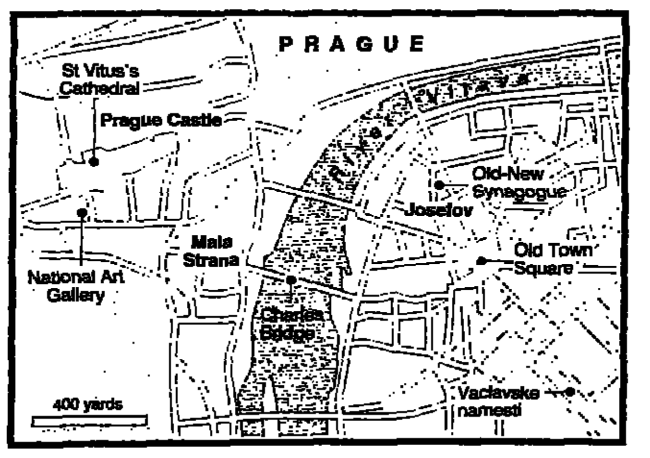
Prague has three opera houses. The 19th-century State Opera is rococo run amok, with gold leaf, white stucco, caryatids — you name it, they've got it. The National Opera House is gilded, angelled and frescoed to within an inch of its life.

At the Estates, a dinky little auditorium built in 1783 and a marvel of green and gold, I saw the next best thing to *Don Giovanni*: an imaginative production of *The Magic Flute*. I finished off the evening at the Pod Kridlem restaurant, a luxurious place (though, by Western standards, without luxurious prices).

Take my tip. Instead of dreaming of Berlin's *White Christmas*, experience one among the snow-covered spires of Prague. It can be very cold but the welcome in these democratic days is warm.

GERALD KAUFMAN

● *The author was a guest of Martin Randall Travel*



TRAVEL DIRECTORY

CARIBBEAN

Anthony Holden on the very British island of Anguilla

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AUSTRIA

Festive shopping to Mozart in Salzburg and Vienna

PAGE 19

MADEIRA

From lush subtropical to magnificent mountain scenery

PAGE 23

TRAVEL TIPS, PAGE 20

Unmistakable Venetian class

We had been to an evening concert at the church of San Samuele across the Grand Canal from Ca' Rezzonico, the baroque palace, once the home of Robert Browning and now the museum of 18th-century Venice. It was our first night and we had listened to the young violinists of Interpreti Veneziani playing glorious Bach and Vivaldi but now it was time to return to our hotel.

It was January 5. Venice was deserted. Only a few Venetians, huddled against the cold, stood awaiting the vaporetto back to St Mark's. Snow started to fall and we chugged along the canal — surely one of the the world's finest journeys — with snow flakes falling against a moonlit sky and the backdrop of one of Venice's greatest icons, the church of Santa Maria della Salute.

On such nights there is a grandeur about Venice that no other city on earth can match. It is truly magical — but pity the journalist who dares to try to stand comparison with Henry James, Mary McCarthy or James Morris in capturing its glory. Morris evokes the Venice I experienced in January: "All is dank, swirling, desolate. If you stand still for a sudden moment, allowing the echo of your steps to retreat around a corner, you will hear only the sad slapping of the water on a tethered boat, the distant clanging of a fog bell, or the deep boom of

red and green and gold among the elegant Christmas decorations lingering in the shop windows, many advertising sales.

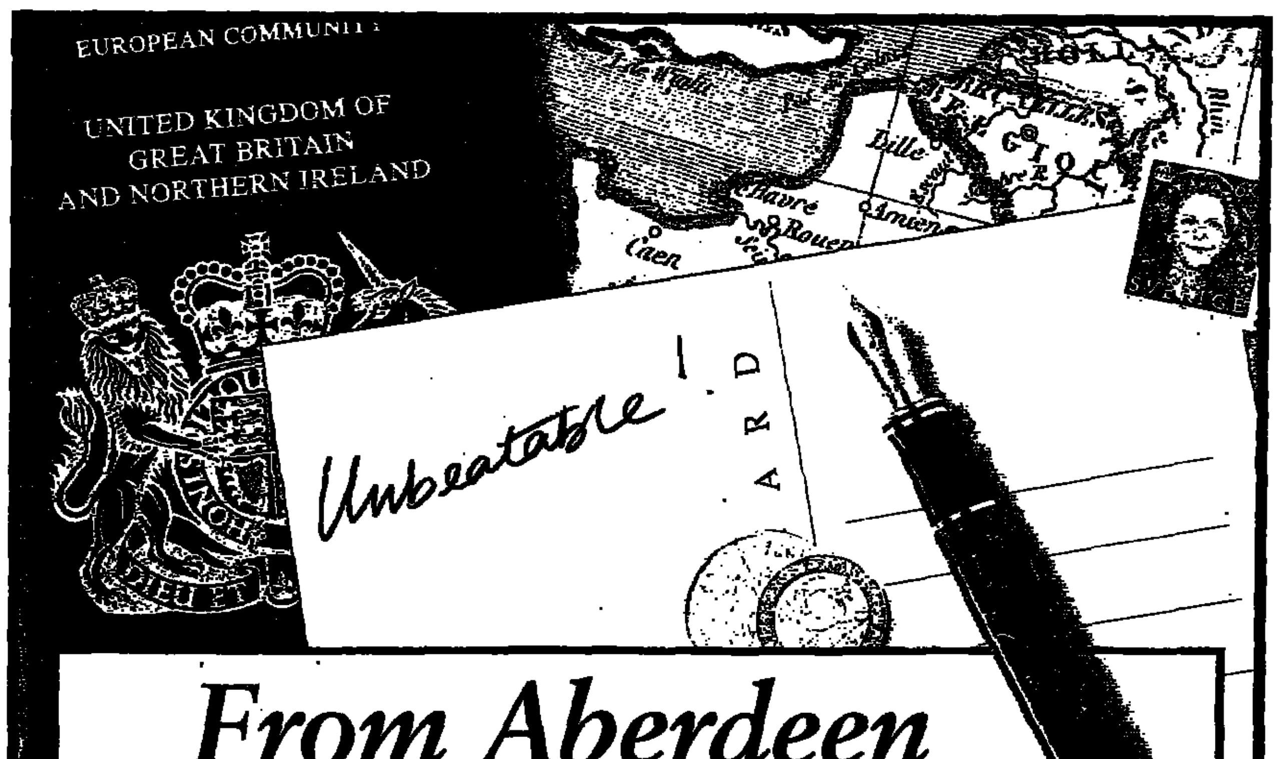
It is Mary McCarthy who understands another of Venice's most potent spells — its power to awaken the philistine dozing in the sceptic's breast. There are so few tourists in January that there are no queues for the great museums, the smaller churches can be admired in solitude and there are seats in Florian's and Quadri's, even Harry's Bar (where the pasta is delicious but stunningly expensive). The streets of the Dorsoduro can be walked without encountering many Venetians let alone tourists. On my previous visit to the Accademia, we had to queue for an hour. In January we walked straight in and were able to appreciate Tiepolo, Tintoretto, Giorione and Carpaccio without being jostled. We enjoyed the churches of Santa Maria dei Miracoli, San Pantalon or the Tintoretto's mighty Crucifixion in the Scuola Grande as if being given a private view.

Many restaurants were preparing to close for their brief holiday before the Carnival but it was easy to book in those that were still open. The Ristoranti della Buona Accoglienza Venezia (RBAV) group — 12 restaurants dotted along the Grand Canal — was a revelation, each small, cheerful, used mainly by locals, and serving decently priced, authentic Venetian food. We particularly enjoyed the Alla Madonna near the Rialto, where there always seems to be a queue, and the Vini da Gigio near the Ca' d'Oro.

Snow fell only briefly, it was cold and we suffered intermittent rain but the duckboards only added to our sense of adventure. After Christmas and New Year, Venice in January made a perfect overture to the weeks of work ahead.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

● *The author was a guest of Thomson (0171-200 8900). He stayed at the five-star Luna Buglioni behind St Mark's Square where two nights B&B costs £305 per person, including flights and transfers, £355 in January and February. Weekend breaks start from £205. Go As You Please holidays also arranged*



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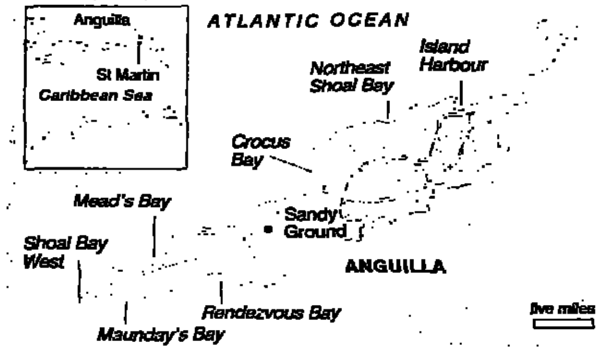
Caribbean: The British colony in the Leeward Islands that more than merits the superlatives heaped on it

God save the Queen, I'll have Anguilla



WORLD PICTURES

Mead's Bay on Anguilla, one of 30 dazzlingly white beaches along its 45-mile coastline. The bay is overlooked by the Malliouhana, one of the best hotels in the Caribbean

Not a shot was fired, but the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, felt obliged to send in the troops, who landed to find that the natives were friendly. Friendly enough to welcome them with a chorus of *God Save the Queen*, while raising the Union Jack in an endearing spirit of defiance.

Anguilla, you may recall, is the tiny Caribbean island which did its zany bit for the Swinging Sixties by staging a revolution *against* independence from Britain.

An Ealing comedy come true, Wilson's "Bay of Piglets" had as happy an ending, with the rebel handful remaining loyal subjects of the Crown — as was their wish, rather than submit to the sway of their big-brother neighbours St Kitts and Nevis, with whom they had been yoked for centuries by successive colonial regimes.

Thirty years on, its people are friendlier than ever, and this British Crown colony, now the proud possessor of its own constitution and parliament, is itself the jewel in the British Leeward Islands' crown. Only 16 miles long and at most three wide, it has 30 dazzlingly white beaches along its 45-mile coastline, facing north and east to the Atlantic, south and west to the Caribbean.

Of the dozen and more Caribbean islands I have visited, Anguilla is the collector's item I would rather keep to myself. So tiny a place can scarcely bear the weight of the superlatives it merits: not just the nicest people for leagues around, but the quietest and most beautiful beaches, the most luxurious hotels, the widest range of haute cuisine restaurants — at high, but not the highest, prices.

Anguilla is even more beguiling, while less chi-chi and expensive, than nearby St Barthelemy, alias "St Barth's" (or, to tell the truth, Manhattan-sur-Mer). So tranquil is Anguilla, so free of the garish bustle and teeming tourism of larger islands, that the day trip to next-door St Martin only makes you long to get back. The 40-minute hop from Antigua is more than worth the extra burst of energy after the ten-hour flight from London. But for all Anguilla's touching devotion to the Queen, who dropped in for a day in 1994, absurdly few Britons make the effort: little more than 2,000 a year, or barely 6 per cent of Anguilla's 35,000 annual visitors.

Some may have been deterred by false memories of the 1960s "revolution", more by the after-effects of 1995's Hurricane Louis. But Anguillians, as a member of their tourist board didn't need to tell me, are "a very resilient people". With few exceptions, the main hotels and restaurants are all back in business, in better shape than ever.

What used to be the Casablanca, where the Queen stayed for one night during that recent visit, has recently become the Sonesta Beach Resort, a Moroccan-style spread in a superb setting on Rendezvous Bay West, looking south towards St Martin. The Coccoloba was still in poor shape when I visited, but the celebrated Cap Juluca on Maunday's Bay has made a stylish recovery. Under new management since the hurricane, the "Cap" has reopened after an overhaul, including a new beach, restaurants and Moorish villa rooms.

Even more exotic architecture can be found at nearby Shoal Bay West, on the island's southwest tip, where Cove Castles comprises a clutch of individually designed private villas which double as a sleekly luxurious, quietly exclusive hotel. The elegant parade of tall, white, post-Modernist houses — each with a spacious sitting-room and kitchen downstairs, airy bedroom above — look from the distance like a row of looming space invaders. With names such as De Niro and De Palma in the visitors' book, Cove Castles is the perfect retreat for those who want to get away from it all, preferring their own company to that of fellow holidaymakers. Around the corner at Mead's Bay, surveying the azure sea with a grandeur appropriate to its station, is my prime candidate for one of the best hotels in the West Indies: the Malliouhana, the ultimate destination for those in search of the finest life has to offer in self-indulgence.

It is 15 years since Leon Roydon, a construction tycoon, stood above Mead's Bay and decided it might make a fine site for a home, possibly even a hotel. After just ten years in business, Leon and his son Nigel have set standards to which all other Caribbean resorts now aspire. The Malliouhana is a haven of tranquillity and unashamed luxury, with superb French cuisine and a wine cellar of 20,000 bottles.

If I tell you that each consignment of French wine is delivered by container ship to the bay beneath the hotel, you'll begin to grasp the care the Roydons take.

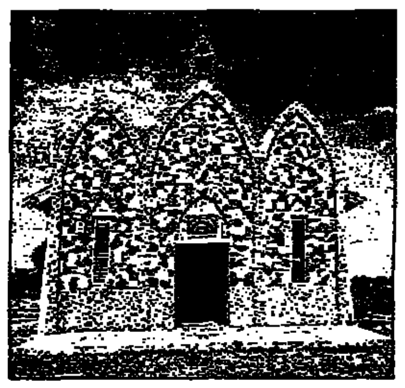
"Malliouhana" is the Carib for eel, reflecting the island's snaking silhouette, and hijacked into its current Spanish by Columbus in 1493. The charms of Anguilla are diverse enough to merit a few days' exploration in a rented jeep, taking in colourful local bars from Johnno's at Sandy Ground via Uncle Ernie's at Shoal Bay to Smitty's beach café in the north-east village of Island Harbour, where the short boat ride to Scilly Cay is worth it just for the lobster.

By night there is an array of superb restaurants to choose from. Particularly recommended, working from southwest to northeast, are Mango's and Blanchard's on Mead's Bay, the Riviera at Sandy Ground, and Hibernia in Island Harbour. At the historic Koal Keel, in the centre of the island, mine host serving delicious Euro-Caribe cuisine is Allan Gumbs, chairman of the island's tourist board, a genial raconteur who knows Anguilla better than most. In the unlikely event of homesickness, Roy's Place on Crocus Bay serves unashamed roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, with British beer, at Sunday lunchtime.

I travelled to Anguilla after writing in these pages that I was "desperate to check out reports that the sand is the whitest". I am pleased to say it is; and that those beaches are the gateway to the finest hospitality in the Caribbean.

ANTHONY HOLDEN

● *The author was a guest of Caribbean Connection*


A tiny island with many gems

ANGUILLA FACT FILE

- **Caribbean Connection (01244 341131) offers packages from £1,600 per week in low season (summer) to £2,750 in high season (winter): includes hotel accommodation, return scheduled flights to Antigua and 40-minute connecting flight to Anguilla.**
- **British Airways (0345 222111) return flights to Antigua start at £861.**
- **BWIA (0171-745 1100) flights cost from £820.**
- **Connecting flights to Anguilla with Carib Aviation (809 462 3147) cost £73 each way.**
- **Ferries run to Anguilla from St Martin every half an hour from 7.30am and cost about £6.50.**
- **Room rates at the Malliouhana (809 497 6111), Cove Castles (809 497 6801) or the Cap Juluca (809 497 6666) start at £330. A five-bedroom villa with private pool costs £2,640. All meals are extra.**
- **Other operators which go to Anguilla: Elegant resorts (01244 897999): Harlequin Holidays (01708 852780): Thomas Cook Holidays (01733 332255): CV Travel's Different World of Hotels (0171-581 0851).**
- **Recommended reading: the *Cadogan Guide to the Caribbean* (£17.99).**
- **More information: Anguilla Tourist Board (0171-937 7725): Anguilla National Trust, PO Box 1234, The Valley, Anguilla.**

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 25

NOLENS VOLENS
(b) Willing or unwilling, whether willing or not, willy-nilly. From the Latin *nolens* unwilling + *volens* willing. "Who placed me, nolens volens, under the wing of an ample-skirted American matron."

PLENILUNE
(c) The time of full moon. A full moon. From the Latin *plēnus, plēna* full + *lūna* moon. Shakespeare, *Timon of Athens*: "Look to thy braines, least in the plenilune,/ Thou waxe more madde."

DOLE
(b) Lamentation, grief. From the Latin *dolor* grief, sorrow. *To make dole* = to lament or mourn. Shakespeare, *As You Like It*: "Yonder they lie; the poor old man, their father, making such pitiful dole over them that all the beholders take his part with weeping."

PARAMO
(c) A high plateau in the tropical parts of South America, bare of trees, and exposed to wind and thick cold fogs. From the Spanish *páramo*, apparently from a native language of Venezuela or New Granada.

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هكذا من الاصل

Austria: The delights of Salzburg's advent market and a train trip to the palaces and pomp of Vienna

Shopping with Mozart and a Viennese whirl

"Only glimpses of Salzburg remain: bell-towers, bridges, piazzas, fountains, a dome or two and an impression of cloisters which might all have been flown here by djinns and reassembled as an Italian renaissance city the wrong side of the Alps."

This was Patrick Leigh Fermor's impression as he passed through Austria in 1934 on his epic walk up the Rhine and down the Danube towards Constantinople, and it mirrors my own more than 60 years later on an equally brief visit to this gem of a city. Leigh Fermor turned his back on the peaks of the Tyrol because the swarms of happy skiers made him feel "lonely and out of things".

My daughter and I could not linger either, partly out of fear of freezing to the spot on an icy December weekend, but mainly because we were greedily cramming Salzburg and Vienna into one short break.

There was time enough, though, to do the Salzburg essentials, beginning of course, on a Christmas visit, with the Christkindlmarkt in the cathedral square. Advent markets are a Christmas tradition all over Germany and Austria, but here are no makeshift stalls with flapping plastic awnings and cheap, tawdry goods. In these temples to high taste with prices to match, the stalls form miniature villages of wooden alpine chalets, exquisitely decorated with natural foliage and sparkling with tiny white lights.

Here Slade do not belt out their raucous Christmas pop hit over a crackling tannoy; instead, a sweet-voiced choir on the cathedral steps chimes out *Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht*, written by a priestly son of Salzburg 170 years ago, and as its last notes fade the Salzburg church bells take up the chime, until it rebounds endlessly from the walls of the Hohensalzburg fortress that dominates the skyline.

And what is for sale? Mountains and mountains of Christmas decorations in all possible shapes and colours, all exquisitely hand-crafted, once by alpine farming communities in the long, isolated winters, now perhaps with rather less romantic origins.

Fragile glass ornaments, hand-painted with village scenes; pottery bells and baubles and candle-holders; advent wreaths and garlands; and on the stalls with the biggest crowds around them, carved Nativity sets.

And there is food and drink to keep spirits high and noses from dropping off in the crisp night air, steaming mugs of glühwein or hot punch, stalls offering baked potatoes and apples, bratwurst of every size, with or without mustard and sauerkraut, doughnuts and roasted chestnuts. And not a plastic cup or discarded carton in sight. Salzburg is chic.

By day we explored the smart shops on the Getreidegasse and the arcaded courtyards which surround it, intent on a loden jacket until we saw the second-mortgage price tags. We peeked into the marble hall of the baroque Mirabell palace, now used for weddings and concerts, and jumped up and down the steps in the Mirabell gardens which echoed to Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music*.

We duly paid homage at Mozart's birthplace, and on a clear, frosty Saturday night took the cable car up to the 11th-century fortress to hear a fine chamber concert of his music, plus an unforgettable finale provided by the Almer Alphornquartett — four strapping chaps in lederhosen with 12-foot Alpine horns. I can understand why Alpine horn music has not reached a wider audience. And on Sunday morning there was still time to join the congregation filling the glorious 17th-century cathedral for Mozart's *Kronungsmesse*, which he wrote for this church, and which we heard at a level of musicianship that a London audience would pay dearly to hear.

Salzburg's Christkindlmarkt: high taste and high prices

A three-and-a-half-hour train ride brought us from Salzburg into Vienna, where similar pleasures awaited, but on a grander scale. This is a city of broad boulevards and imposing architecture, of parks and palaces and pomp, a tribute to grandiose 19th-century urban planning with its tree-lined Ringstrasse encircling the Inner City.

Time was running out, but the might of the Habsburg empire beckoned, so we took the metro to the Archduchess Maria Thérèsa's stunning summer palace at Schönbrunn, and then returned to the hub of the dynasty, the vast Hofburg palace, home of the Spanish Riding School and the Vienna Boys' Choir. It was all too much, and we had to repair to the steaming, velvety embrace of a coffee-house for a *Mélange und Sachertorte* (frothy coffee and divine chocolate cake) to recover.

The mother of all advent markets is here, the Wiener Christkindlmarkt in the grounds of the fairytale palace that is Vienna's *Rathaus*, or city hall. Here a city of miniature chalets dispenses more exquisite crafts, more *glühwein*, more fun. Upstairs in the Rathaus's magnificent festival hall, a succession of choirs from around the world took the stage to proclaim the triumph of the skies; downstairs children made, baked and painted their own crafts in supervised workshops; outside in the sparkling air, lights twinkled and shoppers jostled and *glühwein* steamed in mugs and I paid far too much for a tiny, fragile, hand-painted tinkling glass bell that takes pride of place on my tree.

Vienna plus Salzburg just before Christmas does not equal a perfect world. But it comes close; and if you can barely recall the taste of pure, undiluted Christmas spirit, this will bring it flooding back.

SALLY BAKER

● *The author was a guest of Crystal Cities.*

FACT FILE

- Crystal Cities is at Crystal House, The Courtyard, Arlington Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 6BW (0181-390 9900). Breaks in Vienna start at £269 and in Salzburg from £325. A tailor-made trip costs £509 per person, including return flights, first-class rail travel between Salzburg and Vienna and B&B rooms in five-star hotels.
- Austrian Airlines (0171-434 7350) offers return flights from Heathrow to Salzburg from £219 and to Vienna from £198. British Airways (0345 222111) flights to Vienna start at £189. Lauda Air (0171-630 5924) fares to Salzburg start at £199 and to Vienna £169.
- Reading: The Lonely Planet *City Guide to Vienna* (£5.95) has good maps plus a selection of restaurants and hotels.
- Vienna has a wide choice of eateries both traditional and fast-food. There are several archetypal coffee houses in the streets off the Michaelerplatz in front of the main Hofburg entrance. In Salzburg, the St Peter Stiftskeller (0662 8412680) in St Peter Bezirk is an attractive inn in a courtyard near the cathedral.
- The Austrian National Tourist Office is at 30, St George Street, London W1A 0AL (0171-629 0461). Telephone or postal queries only. Salzburg City Tourist Office, Auerspergstrasse 7 (88987 304).

WORLD PICTURES

Advent market stalls at Vienna's Rathaus form a miniature village of Alpine chalets

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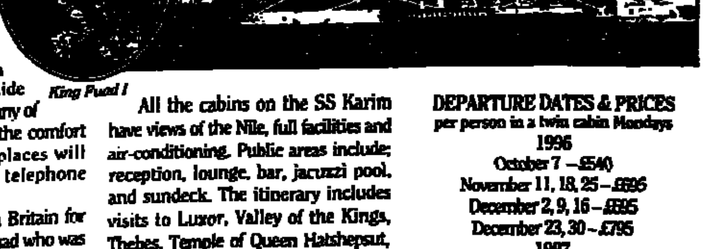

King Fuad I

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Whilst the Ambassador 1 cannot be described as a deluxe vessel she offers a good level of comfort, hearty food, friendly and relaxed atmosphere, and the local onboard naturalists contribute enormously to your understanding of this world in microcosm.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London (Heathrow)-Quito with Viasa via Caracas. Arrive in the evening and drive to the Hotel Akros for an overnight stay.

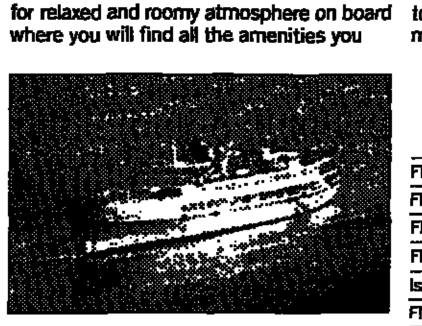
DAY 2 Quito-the Galapagos Morning flight to Baltra and in the afternoon embark Ambassador 1 and sail.

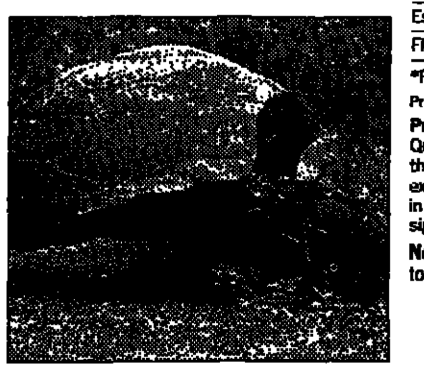
DAYS 3,4,5,6,7 & 8 During the 7 night cruise we will visit many of the islands of the Galapagos group including North Seymour with its breeding colonies of frigates and blue boobies, Fernandina Island one of the more recently active volcanic areas where bare lava areas are slowly being colonised by the hardiest of plants and where the lava meets the sea we should see the largest congregation of Marine Iguana. On Bartolome the photographers can have a field day with the marvellous views and on nearby Santiago there is some excellent snorkelling to be had. The giant tortoises will be the highlight of our visit to the Charles Darwin Research Station on Santa Cruz, whilst on Hood with its beautiful white sandy beaches we will encounter the customary honking sealions, the ever inquisitive Hood Mockingbirds, the 12,000 strong colony of waved albatrosses and a myriad of other birds. Calls will also be made at Isabela Island, Rabida Island, the Scalesia Forest and San Cristobal Island.

DAY 9 Baltra Disembark in the mid-morning and return by air to Quito. A city sightseeing tour has been arranged prior to transfer to the Hotel Akros where accommodation has been reserved for an overnight stay.

DAY 10 Quito-London Morning departure via Caracas with Viasa.

DAY 11 London (Heathrow) Arrive in the morning.





DEPARTURE DATES

19, 26 October 1996; 2, 9 November; 25 January 1997; 1, 8, 15, 22 February; 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 March; 5, 12, 19, 26 April; 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 May; 7, 14, 21, 28 June; 5, 12, 19,* 26* July; 2*, 9,* 16,* 23* August

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*Peak season air supplement £89 per person

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Price Includes: Scheduled flights London-Quito-Baltra-Quito-London, 7 nights aboard the Ambassador 1 on full board, shore excursions, park taxes, 2 nights accommodation in Quito with breakfast, transfers, city sightseeing tour, UK departure tax, naturalists.

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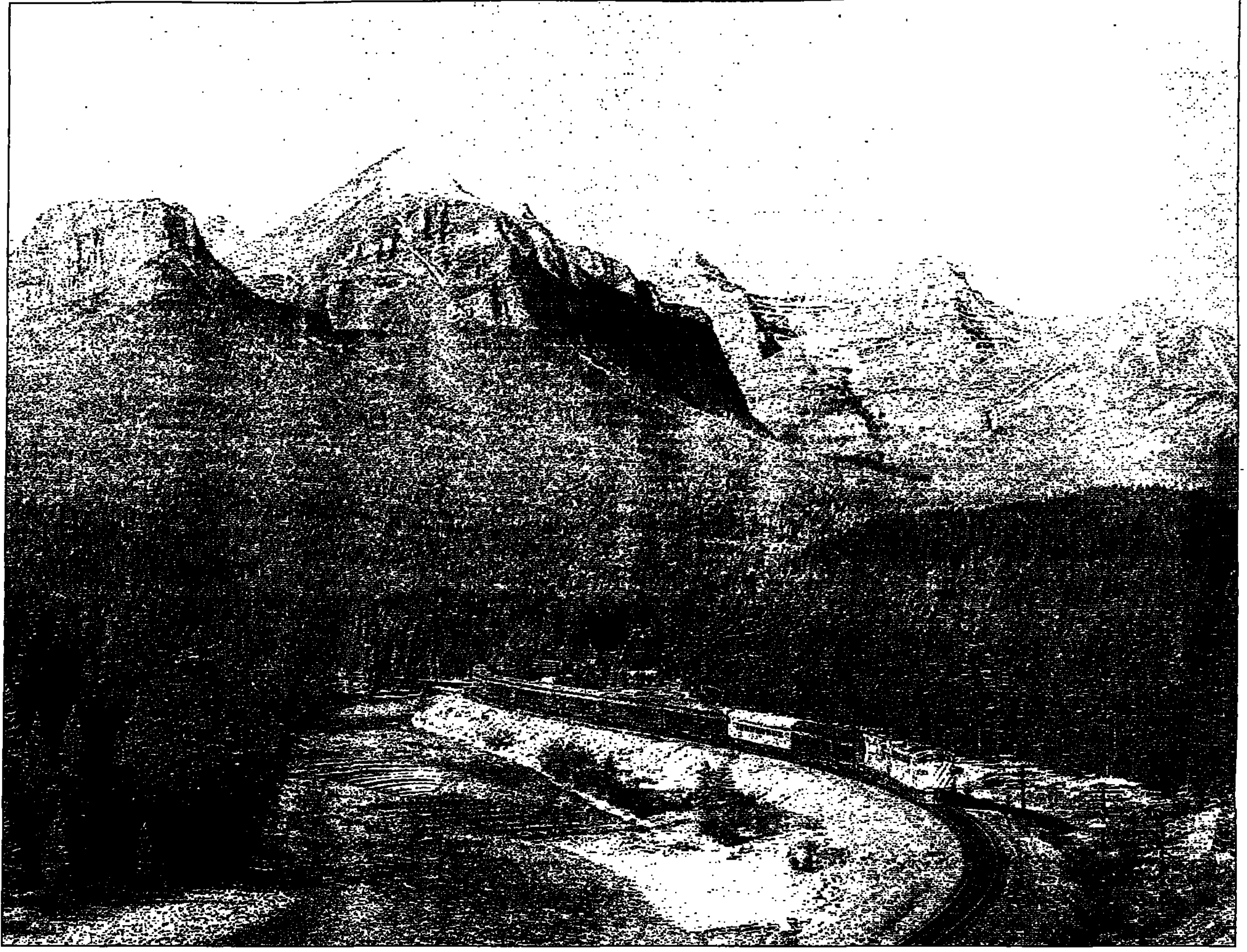
JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Plan now for the Christmas getaway

More people than ever are going away at the end of the year, so if you prefer adventure, cruising or culture to turkey and television, take your pick from this selection of places. But decide soon while there are still vacancies



SPECTRUM

Rockies spectacular: one of the world's best known trains, *The Canadian*, travelling through the Bow river valley in Alberta. This Christmas it will be carrying getaway revellers

Rockie train

CROSSING the frozen prairies and the *Rocky Mountains* on one of the world's great trains, *The Canadian*, is a spectacular way to spend Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Great Rail Journeys (01904 679969) offers a 12-day escorted trip, departing December 21, which includes a three-night, 2,790-mile rail journey, three nights in Toronto at the start of the tour, a trip to the Festival of Lights at Niagara Falls and, at the end of the journey, two nights in Vancouver and another two in Victoria — with New Year celebrated at 35,000ft flying back across Canada, arriving at Heathrow at 10.30am. The cost of the holiday is £1,390, which covers flights, private sleepers, all meals and Christmas lunch on the train and B&B elsewhere.

See Assisi

YOU CAN walk down Italy's Umbrian hills to Assisi on Christmas Eve, spending Christmas Day in the medieval city, on an eight-day break with Alternative Travel (01865 513333). Four days are spent walking in the Apennines (four to seven hours daily) from Todi to Monteschignano, Montefalco and Spello, visiting Romanesque and Renaissance churches and frescos *en route*, and crossing the high pastures of Monte Subasio. The price of £995, plus £280 for air fares, includes full board (hot picnics on the walks), mainly staying in 4-star hotels, with champagne and Christmas cake on the 25th.

Spy cruise

ACTORS Dame Judi Dench and Michael Williams give Christmas readings, Guildhall Music Students provide concerts, leading bridge player Tony Forrester marks people's cards, and a team of professors, doctors and deans offer their expertise and insight into the ports of call on Swan Hellenic's first Christmas at sea on board the comfortably converted former Russian spy ship *Minerva*. The ten-day "Christmas in Paradise" voyage cruises round Sri Lanka, with visits to Colombo, Kandy and Galle, and on to Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, and Singapore (Christmas Day is at sea). Prices, from £1,770, include flights, full board and excursions. And there's no tipping. Details on 0171-800 2200.

By mule

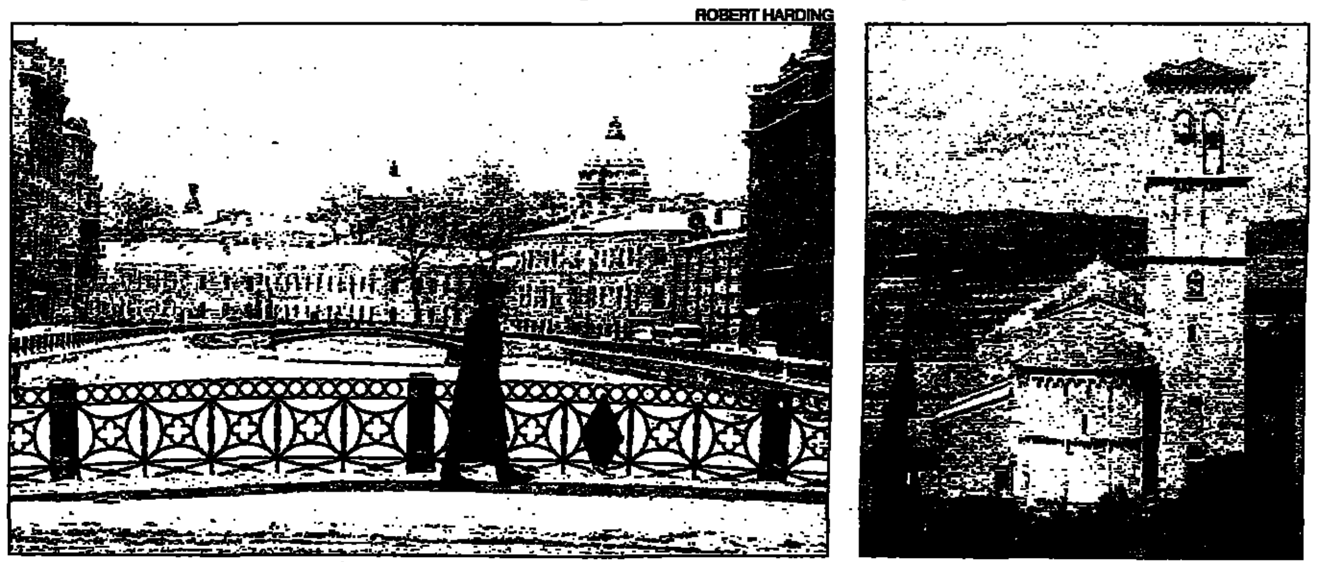
THE OLDEST Christian churches in Africa were cut out of solid granite at Lalibela, Ethiopia, in the 12th-century and are a monument to the strength of the early faith. Explore Worldwide (01252 319448) offers a 17-day escorted tour departing on December 20 and spending Christmas Day among the churches, which are reached by mule. Among other highlights offered are the sacred city of Axum, medieval castles at Gondar and game safaris in the Rift Valley. Prices from £1,990 for return flight, B&B.

Green theme

IF CHRISTMAS and New Year spent discovering the bones of the *Myrotragus balearicus* (an extinct gazelle) and grubbing for 2,000-year-old shards in Majorca, mapping clouds in Ecuador or tracking termites in Africa's Kalahari desert of sounds like your cup of tea the environmental charity Earthwatch (01865 311600) needs volunteers to work alongside experts on a number of festive season projects. These also include saving Borneo's rainforests, and studying insects in Namibia (possibly leading contributors to the greenhouse effect because of the methane gas they produce). Volunteers are expected to contribute between £695-£995 towards the two-week projects, and pay their own air fares.

Pole vault

A WEEK's "Christmas in Warsaw and Krakow" tour from Page & Moy (0116 2507676) costing £595 half board, includes sightseeing tours of the Polish cities, a trip to Zakopane ski resort and a performance at the Warsaw Opera House. On Christmas Day there's a visit to Vadovice, birthplace of Pope John Paul II. On Boxing Day, it's off to the salt mines at Wieliczka, now transformed into underground galleries housing salt sculptures. Canada, Austria, Russia, Norway and Scotland are also featured in Page & Moy's "Christmas Collection" brochure.



ROBERT HARDING

You can dance in New Year's Eve at St Petersburg (above) or visit ancient churches around Assisi in the Umbrian hills

Shop by sea

FOR SEASONAL shopping, Scandinavian Seaways (0990 333111) offer a series of mini-cruises and mini-breaks; for example, to the Christmas market in Hamburg from November 22 to December 22, costing from £59. Five nights in Sweden, costing from £341, departs from Harwich on December 22, and includes a Christmas Eve buffet, *julbord*, at the yacht club on the island of Stenungsbaden plus a tour of the island. For the new year, a three-night escorted tour departs Harwich on December 30 (£219), New Year's Eve is spent wining and dining on a cruise boat on the River Elbe, and watching a fireworks display.

Ski party

A SNOWMAN competition and children's party are part of the festivities by Headwater Holiday (01606 48699) on its Christmas ski holiday at Esterel in Canada, departing on December 21. The cost is £1,099 per adult (children sharing room, £487) for flights, seven nights half-board accommodation, ski pass, skis, boots and poles.

Sightseeing

TOURS of several European cities are offered by Martin Randall (0181-742 3355), giving holiday-makers a chance to attend Midnight Mass or other church services, as well as tours accompanied by art, archaeological or historical experts. A seven-day break to Prague costs £1,240; to Rome £990; Florence, £980. A tour of Flanders, including visits to Bruges, Antwerp, Brussels, Ghent, Malines and Louvain, costs £925. Prices include flights, some meals, admission charges and 4-star hotel accommodation.

Have a ball

YOU CAN waltz your way into 1997 at a St Petersburg New Year's Eve Ball during a four-night break to the city with Steppes East (01285 810267). The Tsar's Ball held in one of the palaces is an extravaganza that includes a five-course dinner of French foods, wines and champagne, with the Kirov Ballet and orchestra performimg between courses. The break, from December 29 to January 2, costs £740 for flights, B&B and sightseeing. The ball costs a further £240.

Do Disney

FESTIVE lights, decorations, floats and fantasy galore are promised by Leger Holidays (01709 839839) on its four-night breaks by coach to Disneyland Paris departing on December 23. The price of £219 per adult, £149 per child (three-11), £169 for teenagers (12-16) covers accommodation, theme park entry on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, and an excursion to Paris. A three-night New Year package costs £199, £129 and £159 respectively.

Christmas in Paris and take a trip to Disney's Magic Kingdom

Farm fare

BREAKS on working farms in a choice of locations are on offer from Slovenija Pursuits (01763 852646). For example, a week's break at the Pri Biscu farmhouse, about half a mile from Lake Bled, costs £420 per person (based on two sharing) for half-board accommodation. Ski fans can opt for the Kvabisar farmouse, close to the Alpine village of Kranjskagora, where a week's holiday costs £367 on a half-board basis. Prices include return flights from Heathrow, departing on December 21. A sum of £50 should be allowed for transfers by taxi carrying four passengers.

Jordan idyll

AN EIGHT-DAY tour of Jordan with Jasmin Tours (01628 531121), visiting Amman, Petra and Aqaba, departs from Heathrow on December 21. Prices start from £881 per person (based on two sharing), including return flights, half-board hotel accommodation and escorted tour. Highlights include the Roman provincial city of Jerash, the Oasis of Azraq and Wadi Rhum.

Château stay

A THREE-NIGHT, self-drive break in France by Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400) starts from December 23 at the 4-star Château de Fère, three hours drive from Calais. The price per person (based on two sharing) is £556 for accommodation, breakfast and gourmet Christmas meals. Also included in the cost is return ferry/Le Shuttle crossing for car and passengers.

Borneo trail

YOU CAN spend a busy Christmas in Borneo on a 17-day expedition to Sabah and Sarawak with Guerba Expeditions (01373 826611) leaving on December 21 from Kuching. The itinerary includes a visit to the Mulu National Park, a stay in an Iban Longhouse, a boat trip to Turtle Island, a visit to an Orang Utan sanctuary and a climb up Mount Kinabalu. The price per person is £1,045, including the guided expedition, internal transfers and accommodation, with most meals in hotels, park cabins, guesthouses and longhouses. Not included are return flights from Britain, which the company is able to arrange for about £550 per person.

Kenya climb

IF YOU fancy scaling Kilimanjaro in Kenya this Christmas, Sherpa Expeditions (0181-577 2717) has a 16-night, fully-escorted journey which starts and finishes in Nairobi, and also takes in Mount Kenya. The cost is £1,995 per person (based on two sharing), which includes return flights from Heathrow and hotel accommodation with breakfast in Nairobi. While trekking you sleep in mountain huts and tents, but full porterage is provided so only day-packs need to be carried.

Cold comfort

A VIKING-style New Year is promised by Arctic Experience (01737 218800) on its five-night Icelandic breaks, which include a New Year's Eve dinner, midnight fireworks, a sightseeing tour of the capital, Reykjavik, and an excursion to the waterfalls, hot springs and bubbling mud pools. There's also a visit to a natural hangover cure — a sauna followed by a plunge into a freezing lake. The cost of the breaks, departing on December 28, is from £609.

French feast

GASTRONOMIC Reveillon festivities are offered by VFB (01242 240 330) in many French regions from £155 to £245 per person. For example, a two-night package to Alsace, including ferry crossing for passengers and car, accommodation at an auberge in the heart of the Vosgien forest and a New Year's Eve dinner and dance, costs £176.

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And let's not forget Victoria's Anniversary Cruise on 8th May as she spends 14 nights exploring Amsterdam and the Baltic treasures of St. Petersburg, Stockholm, Helsinki, Gdynia and Copenhagen.

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For further details see your local ABTA travel agent or telephone our 24 hour brochure line, quoting the reference number DAI.

(*Eligible anniversaries include 10, 15, 20, 25th etc. Anniversary dates need not coincide with cruise dates.)

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Britain: The lasting appeal of Widecombe Fair; how a privatised railway company looks after families

PAUL SLATER/APEX

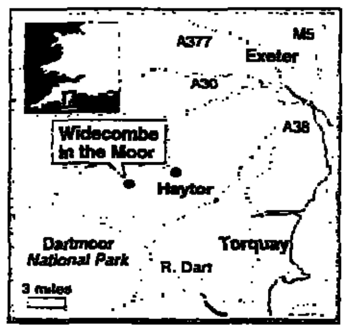
Uncle Tom Cobley, alias Peter Hicks, arrives for the fair

Where rhyme and reason prevail

The folklorist Sabine Baring-Gould published an infectious ditty in 1880 with a lilting tune and a complex refrain that neither rhymes nor scans. The song tells of seven over-optimistic yokels and an ill-fated day out on the back of a borrowed horse. The comical tale rapidly became standard fare in the drawing rooms of Victorian England. The farming community of Widecombe in the Moor has been making hay ever since.

WIDECOMBE FAIR

Tom Pearse, Tom Pearse, lend me your grey mare,
All along, down along, out along lee.
For I want to go to Widecombe Fair,
Wi' Bill Brewer, Jan Stewer, Peter Gurney,
Peter Davy, Dan'l Whiddon, Harry Hawk,
Old Uncle Tom Cobley and all
Old Uncle Tom Cobley and all



Throughout the year, an estimated one million visitors from all over the world wend their way to the village on the eastern edge of Dartmoor, in search of "... Uncle Tom Cobley and all".

Eight verses and a chorus have ensured that Widecombe remains the most popular tourist venue in the 365 square miles of National Park. On the second Tuesday of every September, up to 10,000 people flock to the Widecombe Fair of the song.

Tom Cobley lives on, both in spirit and guise. There was no mistaking the Devon burr, the top hat, smock, hobnail boots and clip-clopping grey mare. Farmer Peter Hicks came to Widecombe with his parents, as a boy of 15, in 1948. Now, aged 64, he has convincingly assumed the role of Uncle Tom at Widecombe Fair for the past ten years. He confided: "Originally I had a false beard, but it was horrible to wear, so for the last four years, I've grown my own and then had it shaved it off for charity." There appears to have been a real Tom Cobley who lived 20 miles away in the village of Spreyton and died in 1790, long before Widecombe Fair existed. But the musical tale of seven men out on an ill-fated spree could well have been Widecombe's joke at the expense of Spreyton people. Several variations of the song were doing the rounds of the West Country in the 19th century. It is possible that Widecombe's version just happened to be the one that Baring-Gould collected.

In the chill of an autumn evening, a cheery grey gaggle of septuagenarians was making tracks towards the coach park. In high summer, squadrons of four buses land here from eight in the morning onwards. Beneath the yew tree in the church square, Uncle Tom Cobley eyed the Old Forge, now a complex of shops, and reflected on what used to be. "Years ago, I'd have my horse shod there," he said. "The place next door had petrol pumps outside. You could buy anything, from a bootlace to a kettle ... and Sexton's Cottage had a sexton living in it."

Sexton Cottage is now a National Trust shop. In other former cottages, Tom Cobley and his hapless fellows ride in endless circles around the sides of commemorative mugs. Grey mares plod linen landscapes. Figurines stand snub-nosed, ruddy-faced and ready, Bill Brewers and Jan Stewers, rural stereotypes to a man.

The 14th-century Old Inn serves venison and Widecombe Wallop on draught. The smaller, folksier Rugglestone Inn does deep dish pies and a free pint for Uncle Tom Cobley on Fair Day. The Wayside Café announces itself with an astonishing teapot sign that appears to be five feet wide from handle to spout. Yet here is a place that has defied decades of commercialisation to remain strikingly beautiful.

Just 600 people live among the scattering of ancient hamlets and farmsteads that comprise the wider parish of Widecombe-in-the-Moor. With its population of no more than 60, the main village snuggles in the wide valley of the East Webburn River.

Its parish church, dating from the 13th century, and which actively welcomes visitors, is known as the Cathedral of the Moor. Whoever coined the name probably first viewed St Pancras from the brow of the long hill that sweeps down into Widecombe from Haytor. Here, the contour lines are so close you could plait them. To the right, stand the granite outcrops of Bonehill, Bell, Chinkwell and Honeybag Tors. Glowering above it all is Hamel Beacon, more than 500 metres above sea level. As if in celebration of its surroundings, the church tower soars 135 feet high above a patchwork of Saxon hill farms. This would have been the first and last view of Widecombe that Cobley and his six friends would have had. It was here that Tom Pearse "seed his old mare down a-making her will".

In the village, shops were closing. From one of any number of smallholdings, a lone calf bawled to the skies, to be answered by another in a neighbouring hamlet. In the stiffening breeze, the church tower appeared to sway against the swirling cloud. With the last coach party long gone, heifers and ponies appeared from nowhere to graze beneath the horse chestnuts on Widecombe Green.

Around the corner, Widecombe children played ball. Last year, the village school received a new library from the profits of the Fair that takes place, conveniently, in the six-acre field opposite.

Come the millennium, Widecombe Fair, with its show horses, terrier racing and tug-of-war, will be celebrating its 150th anniversary. A village store and post office opens every morning, as it always has done. Widecombe sells most things, but not its soul.

BRIAN PEDLEY

Great training for children

If you go down to the train today, you'd better go in disguise — as a parent of small children or, preferably, a small child yourself. Great Western Trains has introduced the Family Carriage, a compartment added to its InterCity trains at the weekend to do what it says, basically — get families together and stick them in one place, leaving the rest of the train free to travel in peace.

You can tell the Family Carriage by the yellow sticker in each of the windows. Those unblessed by children should watch out for it, or they may suffer the fate of the grown-up passengers on the day we caught the train at Paddington. One man, pleased at finding a choice position, on his own and with a proper table to put his things on, visibly aged when the compartment began filling up with pleasure-bent juveniles. We were going to Plymouth for a long weekend. We'd never been there, and three hours on the rails seemed the outer limit of the children's capacity to be quiet. We were wrong, of course, but it seemed a good idea at the time.

Our eight-year-old, Eve, was looking forward to the free activity pack promised as part of the FC Experience. Our 19-month-old, Grace ... well, we had no idea what she was looking forward to. Babies are like that: enigmatic.

Our seats were reserved for free, which was handy. The children got the window seats. Grace stood up and looked out. The train started up. By the time it reached the end of the platform Grace had grown bored with looking out of the window. Three hours started to seem like a very long time.

We got the activity packs from the buffet car, and Eve got on with the puzzles while Grace threw the complimentary playing cards around the compartment. A pile of rubbish was growing on the table, with nowhere to put it. Helpful tip for Great Western: put rubbish bins in the Family Carriage (they have, after all, got them in the largely deserted first-class compartments).

And another helpful tip: put the Family Carriage at the end of the train, rather than in the middle. Having it bang up against the buffet car meant everyone who wanted to get to the car had to manoeuvre their way past Grace.

But on the whole the idea is a good one. You can reserve your seats for nothing, and when you're on board the pecking order reads: children first, the rest nowhere, a significant advance in a world in which most people seem either to be childless, or forgotten what it was like to be one.

By the same token, a hotel where children are treated as anything other than devils should be given an extra star, or perhaps a red badge of courage. Ours in Plymouth, overlooking the spectacular Hoe, had a children's play area, stocked with toys that didn't look as though they had been picked up at a car boot sale, an indoor swimming pool, and outdoor activity centre, and the sort of dining room staff that made you feel they really didn't mind when a baby threw a tantrum because she was tired and her dad had to take her, and his dinner, back up to the room.

Presumably the same applied to the cleaning staff when they discovered the soft fruits decorating the carpet and the several dozen bath towels required to dry two small bodies, but possibly not.

And so to Plymouth and the chance to use Great Western's discount vouchers, giving money off or two-for-one entrance to rainy-day attractions all over the Great Western stamping ground, including London. We could have gone for a cut-price tour of the harbour, and checked out the nuclear submarine berthed there, but we're fond of Grace, and didn't want to run any risk. So we ducked out of the wind (very windy place, Plymouth, as Drake could have told you) and went through the Dome, a trip through the town's past with what appeared to be smells of the time in the mock-up of a 16th-century street scene.

For the older trippers, a video about the time the Luftwaffe tried to flatten the hilly town was a chiller. Eve seemed to be more interested in the TV-telescope, which gave her a closer-up view of the ships in Plymouth Sound. Grace settled for a go on the bouncy castle wobbling on a patch of greenery overlooking the Sound. Babies tend to favour the physical over the intellectual.

CHRIS CAMPLING

ADRIAN SHERRATT

Children travelling in Great Western Trains' new family carriage from Paddington to Plymouth. Each child receives a free activity pack

FACT FILE

- Great Western Trains 0171-313 1950. A Family Railcard gives 20 per cent discount on most standard fares and children travel for £2. Two adults and two children travel to Plymouth for £73.70 return, as opposed to a Saver fare of £157.70. If you book seven days in advance, tickets can be sent to your home free. Further details of Great Western Trains: 0345 484950 (local rates).
- Two nights' accommodation in a family suite, with dinner and breakfast, at the Plymouth Hoe Moat House (01752 639988), costs £125 per person. Children stay free, but meals are extra.
- The Plymouth Dome, The Hoe (01752 600608), adults £3.95, £3.30 concs, £2.50 children over seven (two tickets for one through GWT).
- Discounts on attractions through Great Western Trains include: Plymouth Harbour trip (50p off); The Plymouth Pavilions adventure centre (£1 off the £2.75 adult price); The Roman Baths and Costume Museum, Bath, (75p off the £7.50 adult price); Madame Tussauds, Baker Street, London, (£2 off the £8.75 adult price); Rock Circus, Piccadilly, London (£2 off the £7.50 adult price); The London Dungeon, London Bridge (£2 off the £7.75 adult price).

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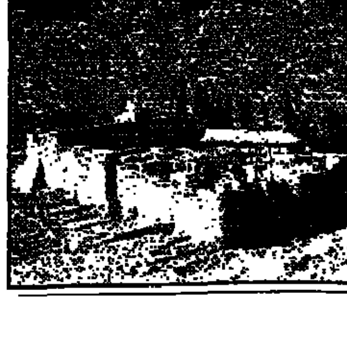

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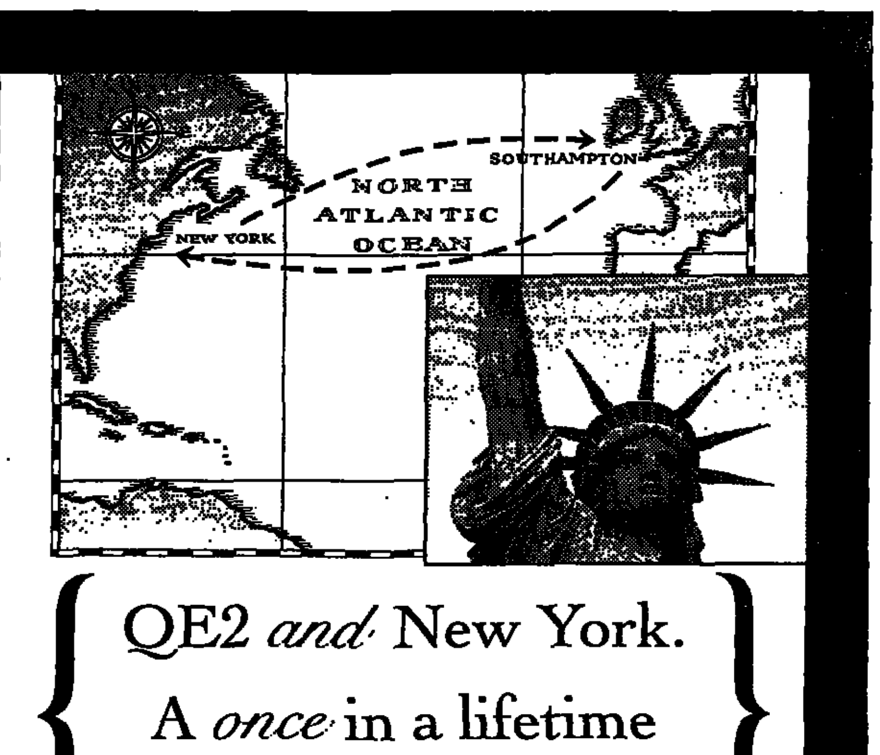

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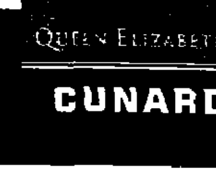

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Madeira: From lush, subtropical scenery to volcanic mountains and a fine wine

The island with a twilight glow

I emerged from the church at Monte, where I had been gazing at the tomb of Karl I, the last Habsburg emperor, who lived in Madeira in exile until his untimely death in 1922. A hawker urged me to buy a pack of embroidered handkerchiefs, a local speciality. I declined. He insisted. I declined. Then he swore at me, in a colourful manner but not menacingly. Eventually I decoded the abuse: it was his mispronounced version of "Four quid".

You expect the occasional bit of foul language as you wander around Europe. But not in Madeira, the most decorous resort imaginable. It's not exactly packed with the young and the loud. Indeed, a press release proudly announces that the average age of the visitor has plummeted from 54 to 51. I suspect these figures are doctored by taking into account the occasional baby and globetrotting grandchild. The true statistics are probably down from 91 to 87.

Madeira's reputation as a resort for the twilight generation shouldn't put you off. The wonderful thing about old folk is that they don't move fast. A party of six, with men sporting white moustaches and cravats, moved so slowly at Gatwick that they didn't make it to the gate on time and our plane, by then taxiing to the runway, had to turn back to pick them up. (I am not making this up.)

On Maderia, the oldies tend to stay put, sipping tea at Reid's hotel or contemplating the Atlantic from their hotel balconies, leaving the rest of the island free for the under-eighties minority to explore. Even on the coolest days they are by the pool, half-clothed, soaking up the cloud-rays.

Madeira may sound deadly, but it's not. It is that rarest of holiday places: a resort that has kept its dignity. There are one or two pubs, but of the smarter kind, and a few tourist-trap restaurants near the marina in the capital, Funchal, but you won't find fish and chip shops or signs proclaiming "*Wir sprechen Deutsch*", though shopkeepers probably do.

What makes the island enthralling is its unlikely variety. The even climate means that those content to doze by the pool can do so undisturbed, but visitors with a tad more adventurousness will find plenty to explore. Wander inland from Funchal or Ribeira Brava and you immediately enter a fabulous subtropical landscape of steeply terraced volcanic mountains, strewn with seemingly inaccessible vineyards and vegetable plots.

From here the roads wind up into the mountains, offering ever more spectacular views. To the west there is a plateau, and then the landscape changes again, this time to an approximation of Scottish moorland. At Rabacal, you can walk through woods reminiscent of a Mediterranean pine forest to the Risco waterfall. Madeira, indeed, is a walker's paradise, with thousands of kilometres of well-maintained paths that follow the *levadas*, irrigation channels created by the Moors many centuries ago.

The north coast is more desolate than the intensely cultivated south shore. Here cliffs plunge down to the ocean and the roads hug the rock so closely they sometimes pass beneath waterfalls, giving cars a dousing. At Porto Moniz, you can eat copiously and cheaply on restaurant terraces overlooking a shoreline of jagged black volcanic rocks against which Atlantic breakers pound.

Not that the south coast lacks drama. Near Camara de Lobos looms the second largest cliff in Europe, Cabo Girao. And at Eira, just north of Funchal, is a hillside viewing platform 1,100 metres up and looking down on to the vine-terraced village of Curral das Freiras, set in a bowl surrounded by vertiginous mountains.

Funchal suffers from urban sprawl but the old centre, largely pedestrianised, retains buildings that reflect Portuguese imperial grandeur, monumentalised in the island's dark, volcanic stone. The cathedral, mostly dull, has a superb wooden roof, but the Jesuit church is packed with *azulejos*, the ornamental tiles found wherever the Portuguese flag flies.

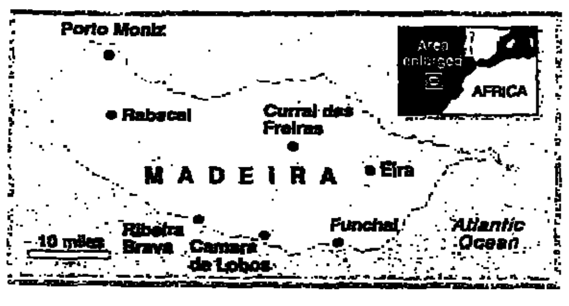
Near the town are old mansions, such as the Quinta da Cruzes, now a museum set among lush subtropical gardens. Even outside the confines of gardens, along any mountain road, the borders are ablaze with azalea, lily, orchid, and nasturtium.

In the centre of Funchal is the Sao Francisco wine lodge, the headquarters of the Madeira Wine Company. The fortified wine has been produced here for centuries, and the organised tours include tastings. There are four styles of madeira, which from driest to sweetest are called Sercial, Verdelho, Bual, and Malmsey, each named after a different grape variety. The rule with madeira is: the older the better. Five-year-old wines are good, and ten and 15-year-olds can be superb, but younger wines are made from the Tinta Negra Mole grape, which usually lacks distinction. With madeira, you get what you pay for. A glass of 1882 Verdelho will set you back about £22. Madeira is no gastronomic paradise, but there is abundant fresh fish. The speciality is *espada*, scabbard fish, usually served with fried bananas. Better still are grouper and sea bream, cooked simply with butter, herbs and garlic. The freshest fish I encountered was at the tiny O Jango restaurant in east Funchal, where, as at any good fish restaurant, you can select your own creature before the cook gets to work.

If you want lager and discos, Madeira is probably not for you. But for an equable climate, relaxation, good walks, inspiring landscape, tennis, and indolence it's a hard place to match.

STEPHEN BROOK

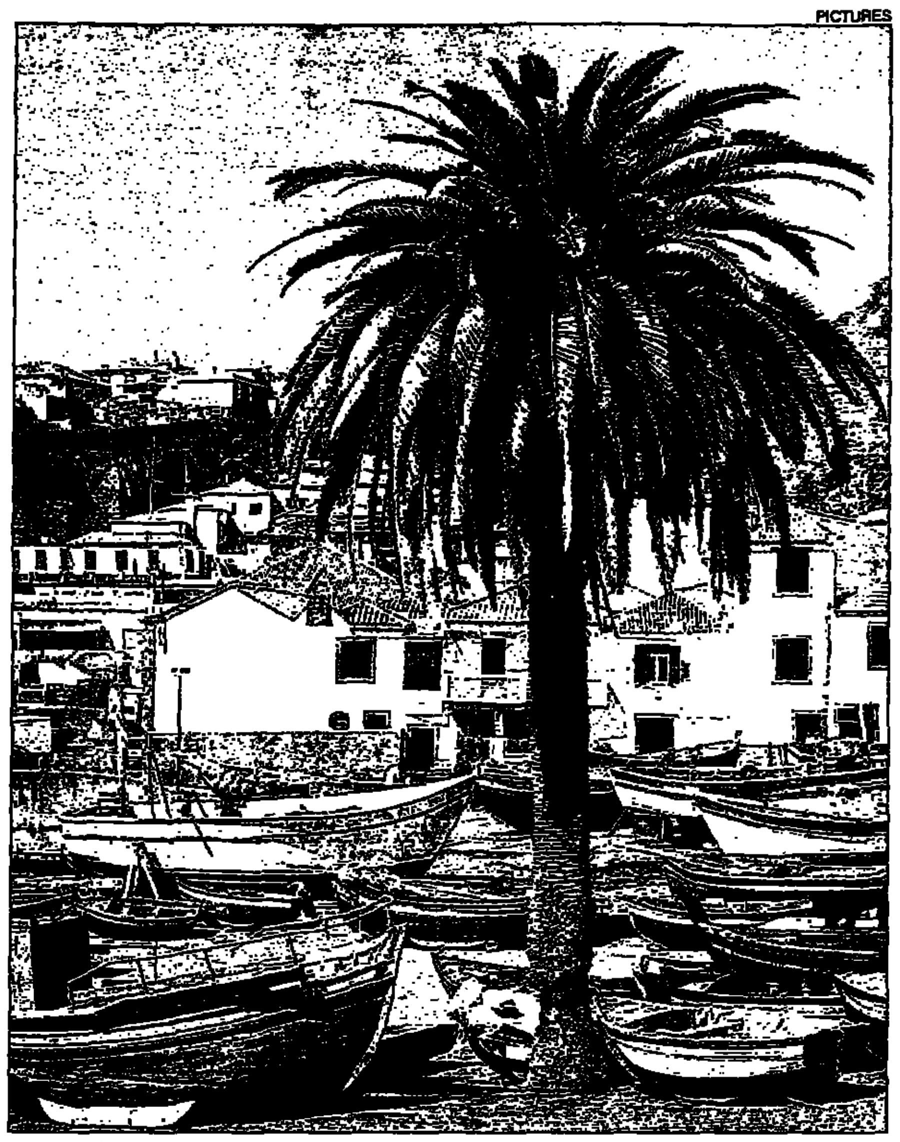
● *The author was a guest of Cadogan Holidays*



MADEIRA FACT FILE

- ■ Cadogan Holidays, 9-10 Portland Street, Southampton SO14 7EB (01703 332661) offers seven nights at the 5-star Madeira Palacio Hotel, based on twin occupancy and including breakfast and flights, from £482 to £864. Similar packages at the 5-star deluxe Reid's Hotel are from £769 to £1,565.
- ■ A three-course fish dinner, including wine, at an informal restaurant on the island costs about £15-£18 a head.
- ■ For further information on Madeira, contact the Portuguese National Tourist Office, 22-25A Sackville Street, London W1X 1DE (0171-494 1441).

PICTURES



Madeira has managed to retain its dignity — no fish and chip shops here

An artist you can bank on

INSIDER'S GUIDE TO PARIS

The Place de Furstenberg, off Boulevard St Germain, is beautiful, with cobbles and broadleafed trees, but just off the square is Eugene Delacroix's old workshop and apartment, one of the most charming and smallest museums in Paris.

Delacroix is immediately recognisable as the man on the back of the Fr100 note, and as one of France's finest 19th-century painters. His major works, including *The 28th of July*, *Algerian Women*, *The Prisoner of Chillon*, *Don Juan*, *Jewish Musicians* and *The Death of Sardanapale* are in the Louvre. The little Musée Delacroix is more about the atmosphere of a Left Bank studio than about his grandest works — there are a few oil portraits, but mostly sketches and studies are on show. The artist moved to Rue Furstenberg in 1857 towards the end of his life, when he found himself exhausted by the walk from his old apartment to the church of Saint-Sulpice, where he was painting one of the chapels. His rooms were not large but there was a walled garden where he decided to build a studio. By this time he was well established and not short of cash, so the result is more a classical temple than a garden shed.

Like many people, Delacroix had trouble with his builders, and waited eight months before his studio was ready. "Half the workmen aren't reliable," he moaned, "and the other half are lazy or too expensive . . . this has caused great annoyance." The eventual result was a cream, stone building with a frieze over the front door and enormous windows and skylights.

Delacroix came to find his apartment delightful, with its view at the front over a cobbled courtyard and the flowerboxes of his neighbours, and behind over his garden, which is still a place where visitors can sit and escape the bustle of the boulevards.

He lived with his longtime housekeeper, Jenny Le Guillou, and there are two portraits of her — one as a young girl with an unfortunate snub nose, and later as a mature woman, grave in a bonnet.

In the hall, there is an enormous bust of Delacroix, with pointy moustache and demi-beard. A foppish scarf falls from his neck. His paintings and sketches are displayed in what was once his bedroom, library and salon. A few pieces of his furniture are dotted about, but the most interesting is his metal-lined mahogany painting table in the studio. In glass cases there are his original palettes, still thick with carefully ranged paint.

There are also letters to friends, such as the writer George Sand and Baudelaire, who wrote a poem in honour of the painter, perhaps referring to his gloomy backgrounds: "Delacroix, lake of blood/Haunted by wicked angels/Shaded by a wood of evergreen pines."

The Delacroix museum is a pleasant stop on a wander around St-Germain, where he lived until his death at home in 1863. From here it is a five-minute walk to Saint-Sulpice, past the Marché St-Germain. In the church, he worked on the Saints-Anges chapel for more than a decade, and there are two more paintings.

The Delacroix Left Bank tour can be completed with a coffee in the Café de la Mairie, opposite Saint-Sulpice, where, no doubt, Delacroix occasionally took lunch.

KATE MUIR

● *Musée Delacroix, 6 Rue Furstenberg, 6th (44 41 86 50); open daily 10am-5pm, except Tues. Fr15.*

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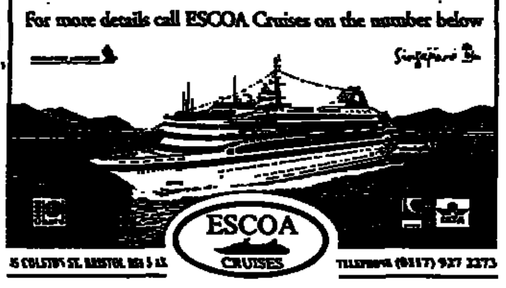

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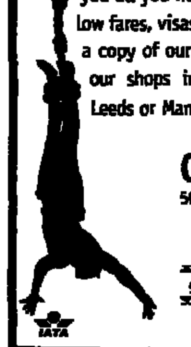

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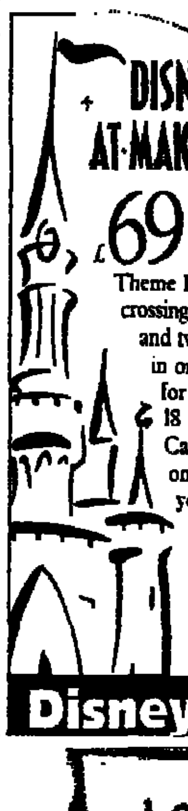

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GAMES

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

ONE OF the scourges of modern chess is the amazing proliferation of openings theory connected with the increasingly popular Sicilian Defence. In their championship match last year, for example, Anand could make absolutely no progress against Kasparov's Dragon Variation of the Sicilian, constantly being surprised by new twists in Black's openings.

One way to take the fun out of the Sicilian for Black is to play 2 c3, simply aiming to construct a broad pawn centre with d4. This is a favourite of British number two, Michael Adams, it avoids most of the main line theory, and Black's task of equalising is harder than was previously thought. Here are two recent examples, both featuring amazing strikes by White's dark squared bishop.

White: Sareigo: *Black: Leyva*
Cuban Championship. 1996
Sicilian Defence

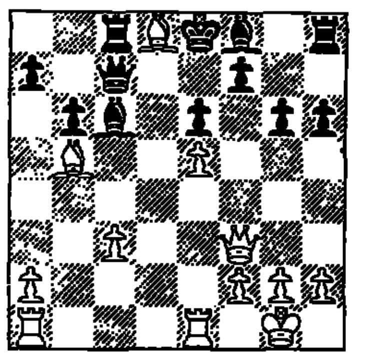
1	e4	c5	2	c3	Nf6
3	e5	Nd5	4	d4	cxd4
5	Nf3	e6			

In the next game, Black quickly develops his queen, but in this one he decides to avoid exposing his strongest piece on d5. Nevertheless, White still gains a substantial initiative.

6	cxd4	b6	7	Nc3	Bb7
8	Bd3	Nxc3	9	bxc3	d6
10	0-0	Nd7	11	Re1	Qc7
12	Bg5	dxe5	13	Nxe5	Nxe5
14	dxe5	h6	15	Qh5	g6
16	Bb5+	Bc6	17	Qf3	Rc8

In spite of White's better development, it appears that Black can survive and may even emerge into an endgame with the better pawn structure, in view of White's weaknesses on e5, c3 and a2.

18 Bd8



Shattering Black's illusions with a staggering move that foreshadows White's 19 Bd6 in the next game. If now 18 . . . Rxd8, 19 Bxc6+ Ke7 20 Qf6 checkmate. 18 . . . Qxd8 meets a similar fate while the third capture 18 . . . Kxd8 also fails to 19 Bxc6 Qxc6 20 Qf6+ Kc7 21 Qxh8 winning on material.

18	. . .	Qd7	19	Rad1	Bxf3
20	Rxd7	Bc6	21	Bxc6	Rxc6
22	Red1	Bc5	23	Bg5	0-0
24	Bxh6	Ra8	25	Rd8+	Rxd8
26	Rxd8+	Kh7	27	Bg5	Rc7
28	Bf6	g5	29	Rh8+	Kg6
30	Rg8+	Kh7	31	Rxg5	

And White, two pawns ahead, soon won.

White: Palkovi: Black: Danner
Budapest, 1996

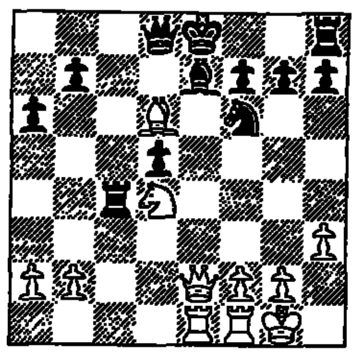
1	e4	c5	2	c3	d5
3	exd5	Qxd5	4	d4	Nc6
5	Nf3	Bg4	6	Be2	cxd4
7	cxd4	e6	8	h3	Bh5
9	Nc3	Qd6	10	d5	

This pawn sacrifice is a new idea, aiming to exploit White's lead in development. 10 Be3 and 10 0-0 are the usual moves.

10	. . .	exd5	11	0-0	Nf6
12	Nb5	Qd8	13	Bf4	Rc8
14	Ne5	Bxe2	15	Qxe2	Be7
16	Nxc6	Rxc6	17	Rae1	a6
18	Nd4	Rc4			

Black believes that his defences will hold after 19 Nf5 Re4, but White has a terrible shock in store.

19 Bd6



Wrecking Black's defences in spectacular fashion for if 19 . . . Qxd6 20 Nf5 Qd7 21 Qxe7+ Qxe7 22 Rxe7+ Kf8 23 Rxb7 winning.

19	. . .	Ne4	20	Bxe7	Qxe7
21	Nf5	Qc5	22	Ne3	b5
23	Nxc4	bxc4	24	Qh5	Qd4
25	Rd1	Ng3	26	Rfe1+	Kf8
27	Qxd5				

Black resigns.

WINNING MOVE

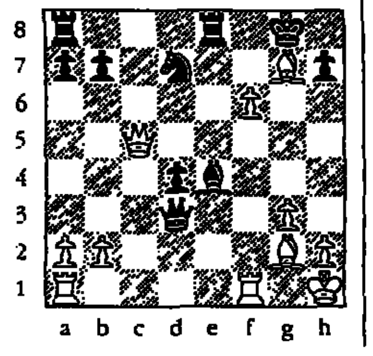
By Raymond Keene

This position is from the game Khmelnitsky - Alburt, US Championship 1996. White's kingside play has achieved for him the powerful combination of a bishop on g7 and a pawn on f6. This alliance severely restricts the black king and White now won quickly. Can you see how? White to play.

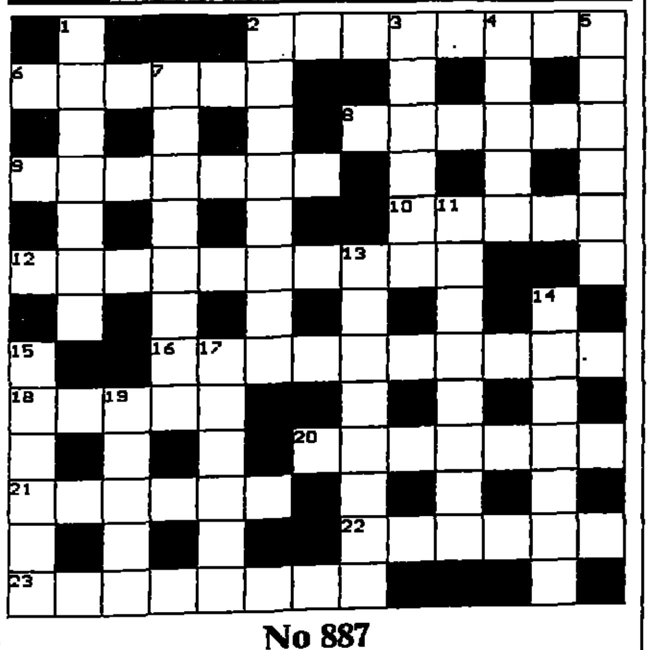
Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 ...Qe7+.

Last week's winners: M. Russell, Blandford, Dorset; G. Mancey, Ashford, Kent; P. Fischer, Boston Lincs.



TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 887

ACROSS
- 2 Twelve-Labour strong man (8)
- 6 Catchy theme: *Pickwick* character (6)
- 8 Merchant (6)
- 9 Introduction: mus. piece (7)
- 10 Choose by vote (5)
- 12 Post-Medici Florentine reformer (10)
- 16 Pleasure-seeking (10)
- 18 Reduce tension (5)
- 20 Later part of day (7)
- 21 Go along with (6)
- 22 Midshipman: jacket, joint (6)
- 23 Scatter, spread (8)

DOWN
- 1 See what is said (3-4)
- 2 Promontory (8)
- 3 Price-fixing ring (6)
- 4 Deposit; gate-house (5)
- 5 A guarantee (6)
- 7 Place of Crucifixion (8)
- 11 Swiss city, IOC HQ (8)
- 13 Animal that eats everything (8)
- 14 Trail-blazer (7)
- 15 Made steady (ahead of impact, bad news) (6)
- 17 Apologetic reason (6)
- 19 Joins: golf-course (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 886
ACROSS: 1 Codify 4 Helmet 8 Scallop 10 Corps 11 Lied 12 Cromwell 14 Dubliners 18 Unbidden 20 Ford 22 Glade 23 Terrace 24 Siesta 25 Cachet
DOWN: 1 Costly 2 Dead end 3 Fold 5 Encumber 6 Marie 7 Tussle 9 Pertinent 13 Obedient 15 Stomach 16 Fungus 17 Advent 19 Blase 21 Area

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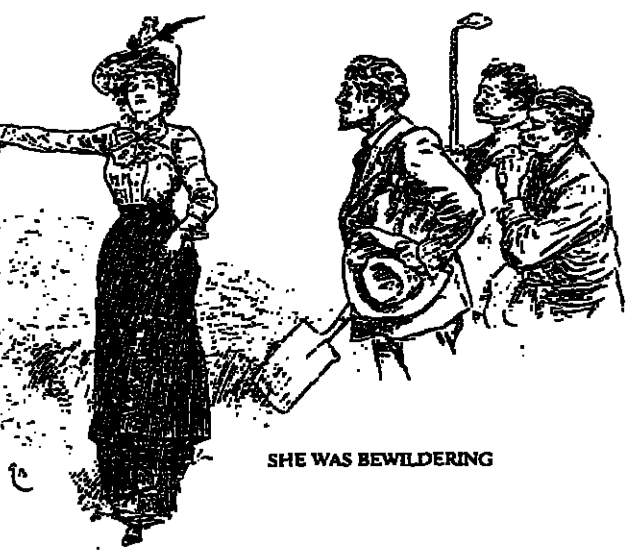
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (17), Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 18.



SHE WAS BEWILDERING

"It's about a titled lady and a gamekeeper"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by John Harries-Harris of Scunthorpe

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

NOLENS VOLENS
a. A flying fish
b. Willy-nilly
c. Without legal representation

PLENILUNE
a. Full to capacity
b. Excused taxes
c. Full moon

DOLE
a. A hopeless candidate
b. Lamentation
c. The red dog of India

PARAMO
a. A geometrical instrument
b. A young lover
c. A plateau

Answers on page 18

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

KEEN PAIRS do plenty of homework on their systems, but there's nothing like a disaster at the table to clear your thinking on a tricky understanding.

In a recent practice match Forrester and Robson's new germ warfare weapon attacked its own side, but that means the Mark II version will be in good shape for the upcoming Olympiad in Rhodes. What would you bid on this hand:

♠S642 ♥92 ♦A9 ♣KJ864

You are North; this is the auction :

S	W	N	E
2S	Pass	3S	Dble.
Redble	Pass	?	

Your partner's opening of Two Spades shows a moderate hand (say 7-11 points) with either both majors or both minors, usually 5-5. Don't stop reading now just because you don't play such methods — the decision is about logic, not system. Your raise to Three Spades says that is where you want to play if your partner has the majors.

In addition you must be able to play in at least Four Clubs if your partner has the minors. That's not a conventional agreement, but just common sense — if you couldn't support a minor you couldn't afford to bid Three Spades, as that would leave you stranded if South did not have the majors.

The opposition tell you that the double of Three Spades is for take-out, and West's pass of the redouble shows a bad hand. With this information, Robson passed, hoping East would run somewhere. East bravely stood his ground and also passed. A major bug had been found in the system — this was the full deal:

Dealer South	Game all	IMPs
	♠8642 ♥92 ♦A9 ♣KJ864	
♠75 ♥J8654 ♦K82 ♣932	N W E S	♠AKQJ10 ♥AKQ10 ♦1063 ♣10
	♠93 ♥73 ♦QJ754 ♣AQ75	

Contract: Three Spades redoubled, by South Lead: five of spades.

The defence took five spades and five hearts for a penalty of 3,400.

East's double of Three Spades doesn't look take-out to me, but it led to a great result. Forrester's redouble apparently showed a minor-suited hand with longer diamonds. 3NT would show equal length, and Four Clubs longer clubs. All very well in theory, but a touch impractical (not normally a Forrester weakness).

Nevertheless redouble denied holding spades. If South had spades what else could he do but pass three spades doubled, and take his medicine? That is why Robson might have removed three spades redoubled.

Pity we don't have photographs on the Games page; one of Forrester's face when dummy revealed his spade holding might have been amusing. . .

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

SHORT OF undertaking a course in advanced computing, and getting to grips with the gobbledegook language of programming, the chances of most of us making our own computer games have been slight, until now. But 1996 will go down as the year when multimedia authoring came to the masses.

Two of the first multimedia authoring titles have quickly become market-leaders, Corel's **Click & Create** and the **Scala MultiMedia MM100.** Others will follow imminently, including the first full version on a games console.

Although there have been some valiant attempts to allow our imagination to run away a little, these have generally offered only a handful of choices and, therefore, been of limited appeal. One example was **Micro Machines 96** from Codemasters, which allowed players to design their own obstacle-littered courses but nothing else.

True multimedia authoring should be a logical process and allow you to start with a completely blank canvas — and take gaming ideas off in any direction you like. First and foremost, of course, you need to come up with a really good idea. Once you've got that you can get going — designing everything from simple platform games to sophisticated business sims, deciding every detail from the characters and backgrounds to technical scoring systems and even reward sequences.

Corel's Click & Create uses a graphics-led interface, allowing you to drag and drop objects into playing fields, and this approach makes it especially easy for designing platform titles. Productions are built up through a storyboard editor, which gives a clear overview with thumbnail images of the screens, text and events as they occur chronologically. Three further editors — time line, frame and event — help you keep track of the shape of creations as they get more complicated. At any stage you can test an application with a single click.

The title comes with a wide choice of fonts, clip art images, video clips, animation sequences, sound files and backgrounds, though others may easily be imported from outside sources. The great drawback to Click & Create is the massive memory requirements — to run smoothly on Windows 95, at least 12 Mb Ram is recommended. The Scala MultiMedia MM100 CD-Rom also makes hefty demands on your hardware but it comes with a viable alternative — a slimmed down version on two floppy disks for loading on to lesser machines, such as laptops. Revolving around a text-based "script" instead of a storyboard editor, Scala lists the events and their timings in a bold main menu. Scripts are flexible, allowing you to create pages and events out of turn and slip them into the running order wherever you want.

Win a Scala authoring kit by creating a game or multimedia experience

On the whole the approach is extremely slick and highly intuitive; even sophisticated presentation tricks can be carried off with just a few clicks. Text, for instance, can fly into vision, rotate a few times then simply fade away.

Scala also comes with its own extensive library of impressive ready-made effects and screens — including backgrounds, music files and sound clips — as well as a clutch of solid demos. Programmes can also be tested at any stage through their development with a simple run option — which is cancelled at any point with the Esc button.

And so to **Cyberspace Twenty-Six**, a knock-out competition offering ten readers the chance to win copies of the excellent Scala MultiMedia MM100 worth £149.99 and, later, make a bid for the big prize of £1,000 worth of Microsoft software. To enter you are invited to invent a unique game or enticing multimedia experience which you would like to make if you were to win a Scala authoring kit. Our ten winners will then be given one month to try to turn their wild inventions into reality using the Scala programme and submit their saved efforts for final judging. The finished product deemed most successful will go on to win its author the Microsoft library of at least 25 of the company's best-selling titles.

The competition is open to readers aged 11 and over and entries should be between 100 and 200 words. The judges will favour ideas as outlandish as you like so long as they also seem feasible. Marks will be added for originality and humour. Send your entries, which *must* include your name, age, address and home telephone number to: Cyberspace Twenty-Six, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The closing date is midnight on Wednesday, October 2. The judges' verdict is final and they will not enter into additional correspondence.

"I think it would be a good idea." Attributed to Mahatma Gandhi, when asked what he thought of Western civilisation.

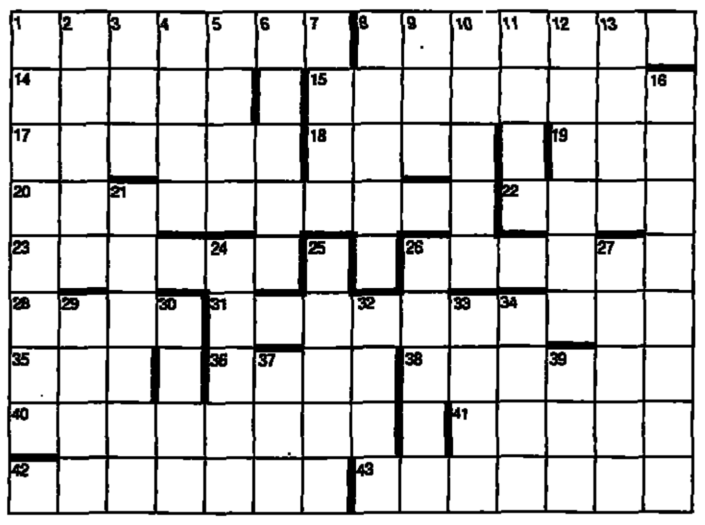
THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No 3375: The Plays of the Bard III by Salamanca

HENRY VI, PART 2: 1Ac. 8Ac. refers to some answers which are otherwise entered normally: 1D. 31 covers the rest (of two types: the first entered normally, covered by lines of quotation — one interruptedly — otherwise unclued; the second, in which no letters appear in their right places).

ACROSS
- 14 Twisted slightly to delay leading part until nearer the end, it's disallowed (9)
- 15 *'No malice sir'* (8)
- 17 They run through play when those who are unemployed in it waste time (10)
- 18 The Bard's hare, a young one without adult (4)
- 19 Bone of dead one lead boy in play's to call back? (3)
- 20 Be very quiet — one's hiding where 18 hides — this covers grass seeds roughly (10)
- 22 Part of the North — or nearly (it's in Scotland) (8)
- 23 *Michael: "hard by with the King's forces". Cade: "Stand, villain, stand"* (6)
- 26 *"A messenger from Henry, our dread liege"* (6)
- 28 Old Dutch thanks one having solid heart (4)
- 35 Haddock a jolly one's caught (7)
- 36 Shakespeare's to mix chap with King possibly (4)
- 38 Injured self? Ay, in a certain way (6)
- 40 *"And then we may deliver our supplications in the quill"* (8)
- 41 Bore each one on back (9)
- 42 *"Large gifts have I bestow'd on learned clerks"* (7)
- 43 Bad 37s need to be disguised to escape from the law (7)

DOWN
- 2 Disregards surplus copies (8)
- 3 Delivers a short pause (7)
- 4 Leading examples of South European race born of this nationality? (4)
- 5 Caused King to enter plot (4)
- 6 Hollow King getting married (5)
- 7 Its binding qualities provide the alternatives between craft and draft (4)
- 8 Cutting off school taking a turn working (8)
- 9 One fellow — from Nigeria (3)
- 10 Very important rank (5)
- 11 'Heteralocha acutirostris' - this, the scarce 'tailor' sort, possibly? (4)
- 12 According to Bolingbroke, one of those that howl on such a night, mostly gone bad and wild? (6)
- 13 Stage disguise made of dead tatty material - it's boring to sit through (4)
- 16 To set out words like Shakespeare did having a part with self-contained swagger (8)
- 21 What's said by one heartlessly caught in rising mire (6)
- 24 ... exit leader of sixties' pop-group (5) ...
- 25 ... with leading exponents of extremely exciting 'volcanic' rock (8)
- 26 *'And hunger will enforce them to be more eager'* (5)
- 27 Fellow skilled in fiction (5)
- 29 Adult world almost completely made of grandparents (4)
- 30 The Bard's one with eyes everywhere? A recipe for penning lines? (7)
- 32 Told a story and embellished poor ending in it (8)
- 33 Start to pen old lines full of holes (4) ...
- 34 ... being part of Shakespeare's sentences (4)
- 37 *'Than stand uncover'd to the vulgar groom'* (3)
- 39 Convent brother, French one (6)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3375

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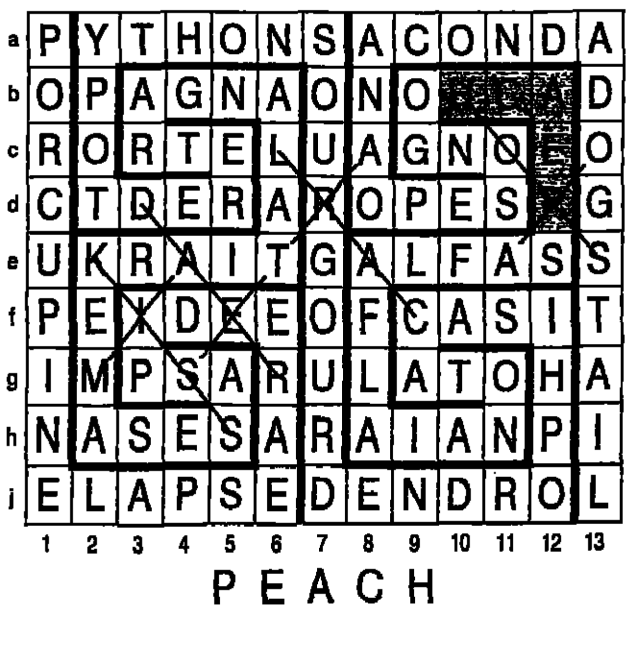
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3375 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, September 26.



a	P	Y	T	H	O	N	S	A	C	O	N	D	A
b	O	P	A	G	N	A	O	N	O				D
c	R	O	R	T	E	L	U	A	G	N	O		O
d	C	T	D	E	R	A	X	O	P	E	S		G
e	U	K	R	A	I	T	G	A	L	F	A	S	S
f	P	E	X	D	E	E	O	F	C	A	S	I	T
g	I	M	P	S	A	R	U	L	A	T	O	H	A
h	N	A	S	E	S	A	R	A	I	A	N	P	I
j	E	L	A	P	S	E	D	E	N	D	R	O	L
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

PEACH

Solution to No 3372: Double-Cross word by Plausus

PEACH
The title alluded to TREACHERY, hence SNAKE IN THE GRASS and 10 snakes: ELAPS; DIPSAS; KRAIT; GARTER; PYTHON; DENDROPHIS; NAIA; ASP; HOGNOSE; ANACONDA appeared in the appropriately designed maze hidden in the following grasses: PORCUPINE; SEAREED; SESAME; ALANG; REDTOP; SOURGOURD; SACATON; ALFALFA; POA; DOGSTAIL. The "appropriate" interloper was PEACH a human traitor.

The winner is G.E. Bell of Hexham, Northumberland.
The two runners-up are Z.J. Adams of Croydon and J. Keene of London W8.

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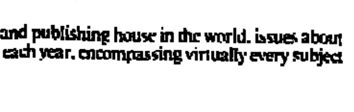

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هكذا من الأصل

Helen Pridham says it is vital to see what your policy covers before you become ill

Check the small print while you can

The growing number of private medical insurance policies on the market is making the task of choosing the right one ever more difficult. Not only are more insurers competing for business, but each has several policies. PPP alone offers seven healthcare schemes. In total, there are now well over 100 policies on sale.

By this time next year, the choice will have grown further, with three or four more providers expected to offer medical insurance. Rising competition may be good for consumers in some ways, but it is also increasing confusion.

Penny O'Nions, a medical insurance specialist, says: "There is more and more fudging going on, particularly in the case of middle-range policies. It is becoming increasingly difficult to compare like with like."

Each company uses a different format to present its policies and descriptions of benefits are not always clear. The Office of Fair Trading criticised such complexities this summer. John Bridgeman, its Director, said: "The combination of medical matters and insurance makes these products doubly difficult to understand and almost impossible to compare."

The OFT wants policies presented in a common format. Mrs O'Nions believes that improvements will not come until the sector is regulated. "If nothing is done, people will be encouraged to buy unsuitable policies and another scandal on the lines of the mis-selling of personal pension policies will occur," she says.

What features should consumers be aware of? Almost all policies fully refund the cost of inpatient treatment, including hospital accommodation, fees for theatre, surgeons and other specialists, dressings and drugs. Some lower-cost policies restrict the type or number of hospitals that can be used.

The trend in the NHS and the private sector is to limit the length of inpatient stays and, if possible, avoid them. Increasingly, treatment is taking place as day care or in outpatient clinics.

Medical insurers will pay only for hospital stays recommended by a specialist. It is important to check just how much cover is provided towards outpatient treatment.

Many policies limit these benefits. Some budget plans do not cover outpatient costs at all or only if they are directly associated with inpatient treatment. Many buyers of low-cost or budget plans have not realised the implications of their decision, and this is leading to a growing flood of complaints to insurers.

George Connelly, of Health Care Matters, a Dorset adviser, said most people who buy budget plans assume that they are missing out only on unimportant frills.

In a simple case, an initial consultation with a specialist may cost £70 to £80, a couple of straightforward procedures such as a blood test and an X-ray to establish more about your condition would cost another £80, and a follow-up consultation a further £60. However, some tests, such as scans, cost between £300 and £850.

So the total bill could well run into four figures. Although Bupa recently improved outpatient benefits on its policies, many advisers believe it has not gone far enough. On its popular Bupa-Care policy, diagnostics are covered in full, but payments for other outpatient expenses, such as consultations with specialists or physiotherapy, are restricted to between £500 and £800, depending on the scale of cover chosen.

Policyholders with no outpatient cover who cannot afford to pay specialists' fees upfront may still have to wait three to six months before they see a specialist on the NHS. Their policy will come into effect if inpatient cover is recommended, but they will have lost out on the main advantage of private medical insurance, which is faster treatment.

HEALTH INSURANCE

Not all policies put limits on outpatient costs. Among those with full refund schemes are OHRA, PrimeHealth and BCWA. Cigna, an American insurer launching a new individual policy next week, is also expected to adopt this approach. In addition, it promises to cover other "hidden costs", especially when children need treatment. Getting expert, impartial advice on which policy is best for you is not easy either. Most are sold direct by company salesmen who can tell you only about their own products. Most independent financial advisers have little expertise in this area and deal with a limited range of providers.

Seeking help from a specialist independent adviser is best. Most are happy to deal with you over the phone. If you are switching insurers you need to be particularly careful because you may lose cover for pre-existing conditions.

To choose the right policy, Mrs O'Nions reckons it is often a good idea to have a word with your GP first. Try to find out what is in your notes that may lead to certain conditions being excluded. Ask about the hospitals and specialists he recommends so that you do not go for a policy that restricts his choice.

Consider your age and what benefits you are likely to need from a policy. Compare policies that offer the benefits you want and find the one that offers best value for money. And look at the small print.

PAUL FIEVEZ

Close to home: Penny O'Nions, a medical-insurance specialist, and her mother Beryl Bellworthy, 66, who recently suffered a stroke. Mrs Bellworthy has no medical insurance and is now waiting months for follow-up therapies on the NHS. If she had private cover, such a wait would be unnecessary as some or all of the cost of these treatments would be covered. "If I didn't already have insurance cover, my mother's experience would certainly have made me want to take some out" said Mrs O'Nions.

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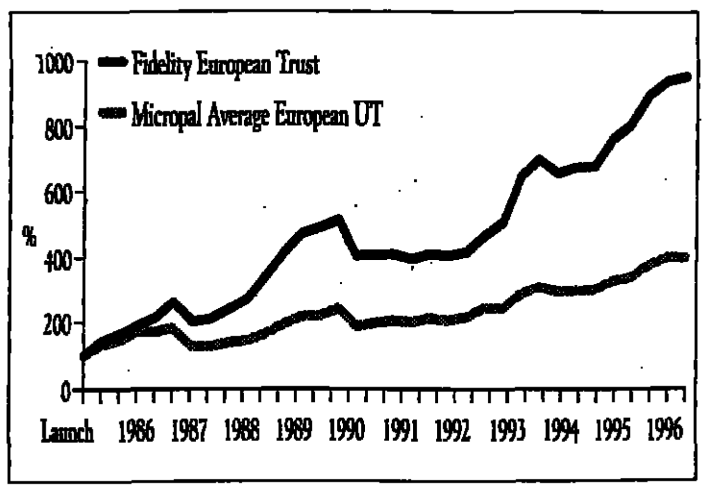

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NatWest guide to the stock market

Investing in the stock market is nothing to be afraid of, according to NatWest. All you need is some investment knowledge — an understanding of how shares work, the meaning behind the City jargon and a few personal investment goals. NatWest has published a free guide, *How to invest in shares — making the most of your money*, which explains the different types of share on offer and the factors that affect share prices. Included is a chapter on selecting shares and building up a portfolio, plus how to find the right stockbroker. For a free copy of the guide, call 0800 200 400.

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☐ Research shows that elderly people want to stay in their home and be independent as long as possible. Adapting your home can make this a reality, according to a consumer guide published by Age Concern and the Research Institute for Consumer Affairs, which offers ideas and information about making your house easier to live in as you get older. The booklet gives a room-by-room guide to any structural changes that might need to be made, plus details of useful aids and equipment. Tips on keeping costs down are also included. For a free copy, send a large stamped addressed envelope to RICA, 2 Marylebone Road, London, NW1 4DF.

☐ By investing in an energy-saving boiler, you can save on your bills immediately. The Energy Saving Trust is offering a cashback scheme of £100 for every condensing boiler fitted, plus up to £220 when you upgrade your heating controls. The boilers are also 15 to 20 per cent more efficient — long-term savings as high as £130 can be achieved. Call the Energy Saving Trust hotline on 0345 023005.

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Alliance & Leic BS 0645 645660	Instnt Direct	Postal	£5,000	5.40	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£10,000	5.85	Yly
Bristol & West BS 0800 901109	Inst Acc Post	Postal	£25,000	6.05	Yly

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-tel 20 Day	20 day p	£5,000	6.05	Yly
Cheltenham & Glouc 0800 717505	Direct 30	30 day p	£100	5.50	Yly
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Mutual Interest	1 yr bnd	£1,000	6.25	Yly
Skipton BS 0800 603010	Fxd Rate Bond	31.10.01	£5,000	7.55	F/Yly

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Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	Fixed rate	5 year	£8,575	7.50	F/Yly
NatWest Bank 0800 200400	Fixed rate	5 year	£5,000	7.45	F/Yly
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Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£500	6.80	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

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Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.90%C	11.20%	Nil
Midland Bank 01702 353344	MasterCard/Visa	0.945%N	11.90%N	Nil N

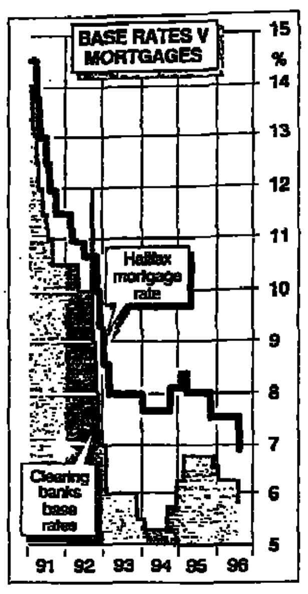
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

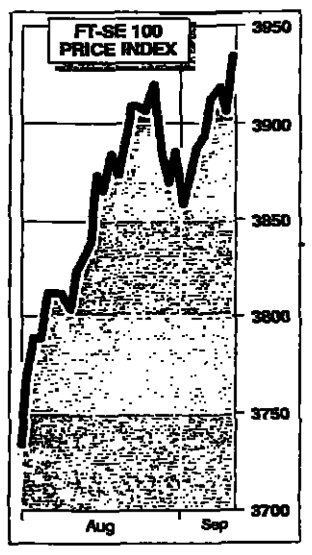
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Direct Line 0141 248 9966	13.90%E	£112.86	£101.33
Alliance & Leic Grp 0116 2626262	14.80%	£114.93	£102.36
Midland Bank 0800 180180	14.90%	£115.82	£102.49

Nb. C = no interest free period, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), N = Introductory rate for a limited period, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 20%	At tax rates 40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0645 645000
Investment A/c*	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**	1mth	0645 645000
Income Bond*	6.00	4.80	3.60	2,000-25,000**	3mth	0645 645000
First Opt Bond	6.00	4.80	3.60	1,000-20,000**		0645 645000
43rd Issue Cert†	5.35			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Children's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	1mth	0645 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					0645 645000
Capital Bond	6.65	5.32	3.99	100-250,000	8day	0645 645000
9th Index Linked†	2.50			100-10,000	8day	0645 645000
Pensnrs Bond S3	7.00	5.60	4.20	500-50,000	60day	0645 645000

[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 · Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble ‡Guaranteed when held for 5 years 0.2% net bonus for £20,000 – £100,000 in addition to S1 and S2 holdings *Taxable but cred in full £500-100,000 earn higher rates. **Tiered rates apply

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£10,359	£11,382	£12,717
Prudential.............Level	£10,325	£11,343	£12,735
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£10,255	£11,285	£12,693
Canada Lf ....Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
Standard Lf ....Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£9,678	£10,417	£11,504
Generali ....Level	£9,469	£10,308	£11,474
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£9,526	£10,252	£11,330
Royal Life ....Level	£9,305	£10,138	£11,364
Canada Life ....Level	£9,230	£10,069	£11,300

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Generali ....Level	£9,234	£9,844	£10,689
Prudential ....Level	£9,252	£9,832	£10,850
Sun Lf of Can.......Level	£9,159	£9,720	£10,526
Stalwart* ....Level	£8,926	£9,605	£10,369
Equitable Lf..........Level	£9,046	£9,563	£10,276

* Maximum purchase £100,000. Higher rates for smokers.
Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 11, 1996

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	4.75
	10,000	AIG Life	4.85
	20,000	AIG Life	4.90
	50,000	AIG Life	5.05
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	4.45
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	5.50
	20,000	AIG Life	5.60
	50,000	AIG Life	5.70
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.00
	10,000	AIG Life	5.83
	20,000	AIG Life	5.93
	50,000	AIG Life	6.03
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.35
	3,000	ITT London & Edin	6.20
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.65
	3,000	Pinnacle Insur	6.50

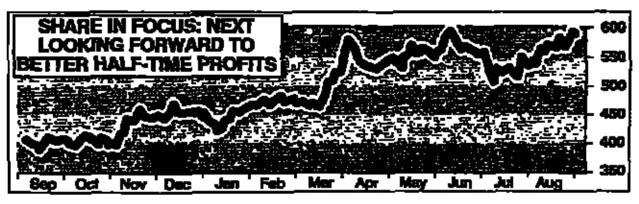
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	99.84	9.384	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	120.08	9.681	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	134.89	9.638	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	139.23	9.606	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	134.33	9.677	100.42	1,000
Coventry	12.125%	126.83	9.540	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	118.59	9.908	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	93.59	9.349	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	125.70	9.341	100.28	50,000
Halifax	13.625%	144.22	9.447	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	140.30	9.533	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	116.33	9.226	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	135.55	9.314	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	135.93	9.288	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	134.83	9.549	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (28/09-21/03)	8.58750%	107.63	100.00	1,000
First Nat(20/03-20/09)	8.70625%	101.63	100.00	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Alliance & Leic 0181 742 0471	1.39	£200-300k	75	Disc of 5.6% until 1.8.97
Northern Rock 0800 591500	0.99	£100-150k	90	High equity dsc 6% to 1.10.97
Woolwich 0181 298 5831	1.58	any	95	5.41% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25 disc 6 mth, 3% disc 6 months
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5740	1.99	to £200k	95	5% discount for 5 months

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	0.05	to £150k	70	Rate fixed for 12 months.
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.20	to £150k	70	Fixed for 1 yr.
Mansfield 01246 202055	0.39	£75-125k	90	6.35% dsc-6mth, 2%-6mth,1%-1yr
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25%dsc-6 mth, 3% dsc-6 mths
Barclays 0800 000929	3.49	£15-500k	95	3.50% discount for 12 months

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Bristol&West 0800 608088	0.95	£15k+	95	6.04% disc 6 mth, 1% disc 6 months
Lambeth 0171 928 1331	3.74	£15+	95	3.25% disc for 12 months
Newbury 01635 43676	4.24	£15-150k	95	2.50% discount for 12 months
Banks				
Bankofireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	6.25% disc 6 mths 3% disc 6 mths
TSB Bank 0500 758000	3.25	£15k+	95	3.74% disc for 12 months

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9SE 0131 339 9191				
Balanced	525.60	556.20	+ 0.10	...
UK Equity	692.30	732.60	...	...
Property	424.00	448.70	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	363.60	384.80	+ 1.70	...
Money	267.40	283.00	+ 0.20	...
International	427.00	451.90	+ 4.80	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Custodian S4	194	204.30	+ 1.40	...
Ethical S4	161.90	170.50	+ 1.10	...
International S4	222.20	233.90	+ 3.60	...
Protected Gth S4	123	129.50	+ 0.20	...
Asian Pacific	206.80	217.70	+ 3.90	...
European S4	211.60	222.80	+ 2.90	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	390.50	411.10	- 0.10	...
Equity Ser 4	270.40	284.70	+ 3.80	...
Man Ser 4	779.80	820.90	+ 9.00	...
Conv Ser 4	351.20	369.70	+ 0.30	...
Money Ser 4	350.80	369.30	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	382.50	402.70	+ 0.80	...
American Ser 4	640.30	674.10	+21.80	...
High Inc Ser 4	803.70	846.10	+ 3.20	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	226.90	238.90	+ 0.60	...
Japan Ser 4	344.80	363	+ 3.00	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1952.80	2055.50	+16.80	...
European Fd Acc	475.90	500.90	+ 9.20	...
Fixed Int Acc	555.10	584.30	+ 1.00	...
Gtd Money Acc	357.60	376.40	+ 0.30	...
Intl Managed Acc	755.10	794.80	+ 8.80	.
Idx Fxd Int Acc	371.50	391.00	- 2.30	...
Japan Fund	258.50	272.10	+ 4.00	...
N American Acc	425.80	448.20	+15.80	...
Prop Fd Acc	469.90	494.60	+ 0.50	...
Multiple Inv Acc	1230.70	1295.40	+12.10	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	400.80	421.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity Acc	1719.00	1809.50	+30.30	...
Property Acc	638.20	671.80	- 0.70	...
Far East Acc	335.90	353.60	+ 5.80	...
Managed Capital	617.80	650.40	+ 9.10	...
-do- Acc	1307.10	1375.90	+19.40	..
Overseas Acc	1178.40	1240.50	+28.70	...
Gilt Edged Acc	540.60	569.10	+ 4.30	...
Amer Equity Acc	1067.90	1124.20	+32.40	.
Amer Man Acc	449.30	473.00	+12.70	...
Amer Prop Acc	120.00	126.40	+ 0.70	...
Distribution Bonds	24.90	26.30	+ 0.20	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	175.60	184.80	+ 0.30	...
Balcd Ser 6	846.80	891.30	+ 9.00	...
Opportunity Ser 6	195.30	205.50	+ 2.60	...
Distribution Ser 6	102.40	107.70	+ 0.50	7.06
UK Equities Ser 6	1216.70	1280.70	+15.40	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1224.20	1288.60	+11.30	...
North Amer Ser 6	612.80	645.00	+18.40	...
Far East Ser 6	592.50	623.60	+ 6.50	...
Europe Ser 6	469.30	493.90	+ 2.10	...
Intnl Ser 6	679.90	715.60	+10.50	...
Property Ser 6	598.10	626.40	- 1.10	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	488.50	514.20	+ 0.70	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S6	195.60	205.80	+ 0.50	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	319.00	335.70	+ 0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	1047.00	1102.20	+11.00	...
-do- Initial	650.50	684.80	+ 6.90	...
Gilt Edged Acc	426.30	448.70	+ 1.90	...
-do- Initial	267.10	281.20	+ 1.10	...
International Acc	463.70	488.20	+ 8.40	...
-do- Initial	288.80	304.00	+ 5.20	...
Managed Acc	623.40	656.30	+ 7.10	...
-do- Initial	389.50	410.10	+ 4.40	...
Money Acc	311.60	328.10	+ 0.30	...
Property Acc	313.30	329.80	+ 0.30	...
-do- Initial	194.50	204.80	...	.
America Acc	367.20	386.60	+13.50	...
Far East Gwth	250.70	263.90	+ 4.70	...
Financial Acc	456.40	480.50	+ 4.90	...
500 Accum	534.50	562.70	+ 1.80	...
Japan Acc	290.70	306.00	+ 2.90	...
Income Acc	619.40	652.00	+ 5.30	...
Leisure Acc	332.80	350.40	+ 0.70	...
Special Sits Acc	316.30	333.00	+ 2.90	...
Univ Tech Acc	186.50	196.40	+ 3.60	..
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	951.27	951.27	+ 9.07	.
Income Fund	892.24	939.20	+ 5.57	...
Extra Income	806.98	849.46	+ 6.81	...
Worldwide Gth	551.49	580.52	+ 6.74	...
Balanced Fund	808.61	851.17	+ 7.08	...
Smllr Cos Recov	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 7.75	...
N Amer & Genrl	450.08	473.77	+10.34	...
Pacific Basin	438.05	461.11	+ 6.16	...
German Growth	260.75	274.48	- 0.11	...
Japan Growth	181.21	190.75	+ 0.37	...
The UK Gth Fd	261.05	274.79	+ 2.42	...
Contl Euro Gth	167.47	176.29	+ 1.79	...
Property Fund	418.98	441.04	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Interest	356.05	374.79	+ 1.69	.
Cash Fund	303.01	318.96	+ 0.22	...
Managed Inv	569.19	599.15	+ 5.63	...
Nth Amer Recov	325.44	342.57	+ 2.72	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gwth	542.11	570.65	+ 1.96	...
BRITANNIA 50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR 0141 248 2000				
Measured Perf	199.40	211.00	+ 1.90	.
Performance Plus	223.60	236.60	+ 2.30	...
With Profit Perf	185.60	196.40	+ 0.30	...
UK Opportunity	243.30	257.30	+ 5.60	...
Euro Opportunity	272.40	288.20	+ 4.80	...
North Amer Opp	228.70	242.00	+ 7.90	...
Far East Opp	214.20	226.60	+ 4.20	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	175.60	184.90	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	205.90	217.90	+ 0.30	...
Fixed Int	224.40	237.40	+ 0.50	...
Cash	169.60	179.40	+ 0.20	6.49
Overseas	257.70	272.70	+ 2.60	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	417.70	439.70	+ 3.90	...
UK Equity	735.80	774.60	+17.00	...
Property	284.30	299.30	+ 0.40	...
Money Market	268.70	282.90	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	326.00	343.20	+ 0.80	...
Japan	354.00	372.70	+ 7.30	...
North America	203.50	214.30	+ 7.00	...
International	398.20	419.20	+ 3.90	...
European	348.30	366.70	+ 6.00	...
Far East	158.60	167.00	+ 3.10	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth ‡	282.80	...	...	...
Managed	395.10	415.90	+ 2.50	...
Property	255.10	268.60	+ 0.40	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	267.60	281.70	+ 1.80	...
Equity	466.50	491.10	+ 2.10	..
Cash	229.40	241.50	+ 0.30	...
CLife Euro Mgd	451.30	475.10	+ 3.50	...
CLife Intl Fd	399.90	421.00	+ 4.50	...
Managed Fund	846.90	891.50	+ 4.60	...
Property Fund	550.90	579.90	+ 0.60	...
Equity Fund	1133.40	1193.00	+ 5.20	...
Gilt Edged Fd	679.00	714.70	+ 2.10	...
Deposit Fund	355.20	373.90	+ 0.40	...
Investment Fd	503.70	528.90	+ 8.60	...
International	623.80	656.60	+ 6.70	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	168.80	177.70	..	...
Managed Fund	740.00	779.00	+ 8.80	..
Equity Fund	439.90	463.10	+ 5.80	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	339.90	357.80	+ 3.70	...
Ruby	203.80	214.60	+ 1.90	...
Emerald	156.70	165.00	+ 0.50	...
Equity	399.30	420.40	+ 4.70	...
Property	237.50	250.10	+ 0.30	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	225.30	237.20	+ 1.10	...
Indexed Secs	180.60	190.20	+ 0.60	...
Cash	201.30	211.90	+ 0.20	...
Nth American	293.00	308.50	+ 9.20	...
Far East	348.90	367.30	+ 3.60	...
International	278.90	293.60	+ 4.50	...
Special Sits	446.70	470.30	+ 1.20	...
Intl Income	349.80	368.30	+ 3.70	...
European	398.00	419.00	+ 4.00	...
Japanese	139.00	146.40	+ 1.00	...
SE Asia	402.80	424.10	+ 9.90	...
With Profits Reg	183.90	193.60	+ 0.20	...
-do- Spec	183.90	193.60	+ 0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	397.80	418.80	+ 4.50	...
Equity	494.40	520.50	+ 5.20	...
Property	220.30	231.90	+ 0.20	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	290.10	305.40	+ 1.60	...
Index Linked	192.80	203.00	+ 0.80	...
Cash	275.40	289.90	+ 0.30	...
Nth American	365.00	384.30	+13.80	...
Far East Acc	333.10	350.70	+ 5.10	...
International Acc	353.50	372.20	+ 6.40	...
Special Sits	673.90	709.40	+ 1.30	..
European Flex	576.40	606.80	+ 5.90	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
(Units) Key ‡	242.65	...	+ 1.35	...
-do- Pacemaker ‡	363.58	..	+ 2.63	...
-do- Cash	215.79	227.15	+ 0.14	...
-do- Equity	651.30	685.58	+ 8.90	...
-do- Fxd Int	393.59	414.31	+ 1.92	...
-do- Managed	465.13	489.61	+ 5.95	...
-do- Property	331.04	348.46	+ 4.46	..
(Pens): Cash Cap	214.29	225.58	+ 0.06	...
-do- Cash Inv	333.84	351.42	+ 0.32	...
-do- Equity Cap	[illegible]	[illegible]	+31.72	...
-do- Equity Inv	[illegible]	[illegible]	+51.26	...
-do- Fixed Cap	424.40	446.75	+ 2.64	...
-do- Fixed Inv	661.16	695.97	+ 4.57	...
-do- Index Cap	207.09	218.00	+ 1.00	...
-do- Index Inv	322.62	339.61	+ 1.79	...
-do- Mngd Cap	678.00	713.69	+12.22	...
-do- Mngd Inv	[illegible]	[illegible]	+19.78	..
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	898.73	...	+10.46	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	107.30	..	+ 0.78	..
Prime: Managed	475.00	500.00	+ 9.20	...
Prime: UK Equity	599.90	631.50	+12.90	...
Prime: Int Equity	338.00	355.80	+ 8.20	...
Prime: Property	249.30	262.50	+ 0.10	...
Prime: Fxd Int	258.60	272.50	+ 2.10	..
Prime Index-Lnk	181.70	191.30	+ 0.40	...
Prime Cash	219.40	231.00	+ 0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1279.10	1346.40	+ 9.10	...
Equity II	1879.50	1978.40	+ 7.00	...
For Crown see Windsor				
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Life Funds				
Ut With Pfts (5&6) ‡	108.10	...	+ 0.10	...
Secure (2) ‡	109.20	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	114.50	.	+ 1.40	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	114.90	.	+ 1.50	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	108.60	..	+ 1.20	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	106.10	...	+ 0.10	...
Equity Mgd S1	283.90	298.90	+ 3.70	...
Managed S1	282.90	297.80	+ 3.40	...
Adventurous S1	228.90	241.00	+ 2.70	...
Managed (2)	189.30	199.30	+ 2.30	...
Pension Funds				
Unit With Pfts (5) ‡	106.50	...	+ 0.20	...
Secure (2) ‡	104.40	...	+ 0.10	...
Managed (2) ‡	110.80	...	+ 1.60	...
Equity Mngd (2) ‡	112.00	...	+ 1.80	...
Adventurous (2) ‡	106.20	...	+ 1.50	...
Bristol & West (2) ‡	105.30	...	+ 0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	350.40	363.10	+ 4.30	0.01
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	365.80	385.10	+ 4.30	...
UK Equity	502.30	528.80	+ 5.00	...
Stewardship	446.20	469.70	+ 3.30	...
Overseas Equity	338.40	356.30	+ 6.20	...
North American	196.70	207.10	+ 6.90	...
Pacific Basin	180.50	190.00	+ 4.40	...
European	299.20	315.00	+ 4.60	...
Property	184.00	193.70	+ 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	264.00	277.90	+ 1.70	...
Index Linked	180.90	190.50	+ 0.80	...
Cash	215.00	226.40	+ 0.20	...
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	592.50	623.60	+ 1.90	...
Managed	814.90	857.70	+ 9.30	...
Deposit	366.90	386.20	+ 0.40	...
Property	511.60	538.50	+ 0.70	...
American	537.70	566.00	+18.70	...
Australian	653.90	688.30	+16.00	...
European	708.40	745.60	+ 9.40	...
Income Acc	896.50	943.60	+ 9.40	...
-do- Dist	500.00	526.40	+ 6.80	5.08
International	360.60	379.50	+ 6.20	...
Japan Smaller	453.30	477.10	+ 2.60	...
Singapore & Mal	419.70	441.70	+ 8.20	...
Smaller Cos	502.90	529.30	+ 5.20	...
Tokyo Fund	647.70	681.70	+ 7.30	...
UK Equity	690.50	726.80	+ 6.30	...
CCM Vangd Mg	890.10	936.90	+ 5.90	...
GT GLOBAL FUND MGMT LTD Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	332.70	350.30	+ 7.60	...
GT Plan Wwide	559.80	589.30	+ 6.10	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	790.70	790.70	+ 9.30	..
-do- Inv A	790.60	832.10	+ 9.80	...
UK Equity	486.80	512.50	+ 4.90	...
Gilt Plus	222.90	234.70	+ 1.20	...
Managed	356.60	375.50	+ 4.50	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	246.30	259.20	+ 2.50	...
Unitised Profit	155.00	163.20	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	353.00	371.40	+ 2.90	..
Fixed Int	212.60	223.70	+ 0.70	..
Index-Linked	176.70	185.90	+ 0.60	...
Cash Deposit	185.80	195.50	+ 0.10	...
Property	183.40	193.00	+ 0.20	...
International	194.70	204.80	+ 1.30	..
American	208.90	219.80	+ 7.10	..
Japan	229.30	241.30	+ 2.30	...
Japan Smllr Cos	234.80	247.00	+ 2.60	.
European	215.90	227.00	+ 2.40	...
Pacific Fund	307.60	323.70	+ 7.00	...
Conv Life	149.30	157.00	+ 1.10	..
Formerly Provident Mutual				
Managed Ord	561.70	591.30	+ 5.70	...
Managed Initial	357.50	376.30	+ 3.40	...
Equity Ord	891.50	938.40	+ 7.50	...
Equity Init	567.50	597.40	+ 4.50	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	215.30	226.60	+ 0.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	143.10	150.60	+ 0.40	...
Oseas Equity Ord	436.10	459.10	+ 8.30	...
Oseas Equity Init	277.60	292.20	+ 5.00	...
Property Ord	281.30	296.10	+ 0.30	...
Property Init	179.10	188.50	+ 0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	310.60	326.90	+ 0.90	...
Fixed Int Init	197.70	208.10	+ 0.50	...
Deposit Ord	221.30	232.90	+ 0.10	...
Deposit Initial	140.90	148.30	...	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ast Prop Bds	854.40	894.20	...	...
Managed Initial	537.40	565.70	+ 6.10	..
-do- Acc	797.50	839.50	+ 9.40	..
Equity Initial	848.50	893.10	+ 5.30	...
-do- Acc	1259.10	1325.40	+ 8.50	.
Fixed Int Initial	460.60	484.90	+ 2.60	...
-do- Acc	683.60	719.60	+ 4.20	...
Intl Initial	512.60	539.60	+10.20	...
-do- Acc	760.70	800.70	+15.40	..
Nth Amer Initial	240.30	252.80	+ 8.90	...
-do- Acc	324.40	341.40	+12.30	...
Pacific Initial	238	250.50	+ 4.40	...
-do- Acc	318.40	335.20	+ 6.10	.
Property Initial	181.20	190.80	...	...
-do- Acc	268.70	282.80	...	...
Index-Lnkd Initl	164.60	173.20	+ 0.80	...
-do- Acc	222.20	233.90	+ 1.20	...
Deposit Initial	204.30	215.10	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc	303.20	319.20	+ 0.20	...
Euro Initial	124.20	130.80	+ 1.70	.
-do- Acc	155.10	163.20	+ 2.10	...
HALIFAX LIFE LTD PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	30.00	31.58	- 0.08	...
Balanced	30.16	31.75	+ 0.38	...
Opportunity	31.14	32.78	+ 0.53	
Deposit	25.28	26.61	- 0.02	..
Pension Funds				
Foundation	31.33	32.98	+ 0.46	...
Balanced	31.02	32.65	+ 0.53	...
Opportunity	32.19	33.88	+ 0.57	...
Deposit	25.86	27.22	+ 0.03	..
HAMBRO ASSURED Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 840000				
Managed	199.00	209.40	+ 1.50	...
-do- Pens	253.60	266.90	+ 2.40	...
UK Equity	211.70	222.80	+ 1.70	...
-do- Pens	252.80	266.10	+ 2.50	...
International	170.00	178.90	+ 1.50	...
-do- Pens	188.70	198.60	+ 2.10	...
Deposit	148.50	156.30	+ 0.30	...
-do- Pens	179.70	189.10	+ 0.30	...
For Henderson see Scot Prov				
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	686.70	726.70	+ 5.00	...
British Fund	672.00	711.20	+ 7.70	...
International	637.20	674.30	+ 9.70	...
Dollar Fund	536.60	567.90	+21.70	...
Capital Fund	584.30	618.40	+ 7.90	...
Income Fund	829.40	877.70	+ 7.90	...
Property Series A	493.70	522.50	+ 2.10	4.90
Property Units	819.70	860.70	+ 3.90	...
Financial Fund	749.10	792.70	+11.60	...
Managed Ser A	647.10	684.80	+ 7.80	...
Managed Units	1165.90	1227.30	+14.30	...
High Yield Fund	744.30	787.60	+ 9.20	...
Money Series A	309.80	327.90	+ 0.20	...
Money Units	413.30	435.10	+ 0.30	...
Equity Fund	747.20	790.70	+ 9.80	...
Fixed Interest	409.40	433.30	+ 3.80	...
Indexed Secs	200.10	211.80	+ 1.10	...
European Fund	891.10	943.00	+ 5.50	...
Natural Res	344.20	364.30	- 2.10	...
Far East Fund	676.60	716.00	+11.60	...
Smaller Cos	658.50	696.90	+ 2.40	...
Special Sits	637.30	674.40	+ 0.60	...
Man Currency	287.20	304.00	+ 0.10	...
Japanese Tech	315.30	333.70	+ 1.40	...
US Smaller Cos	445.10	471.10	+11.70	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	265.30	279.30	+ 0.10	...
Financial Ser 1	60.90	65.00	+ 1.20	...
Fixed Interest	360.20	379.20	+ 1.70	...
Gold	93.60	98.60	+ 1.70	..
Managed	720.10	758.10	+ 8.70	...
Mngd Growth	231.10	243.40	+ 1.00	...
Mngd Opp	245.30	258.30	+ 1.10	...
Property	323.80	340.80	...	...
Residential Prop	107.90	113.70	...	...
TSB American	283.60	298.70	+13.00	...
TSB Brit Gwth	1064.70	1120.80	+11.50	...
TSB European	322.80	339.90	+ 2.50	...
TSB Income	455.70	479.80	+ 5.70	...
TSB Intl	489.10	515.00	+ 8.00	...
TSB Intl Inc	328.40	345.80	+ 2.90	...
TSB Pacific	429.40	452.10	+10.30	...
TSB Prem Inc	281.10	293.70	+ 1.00	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	674.50	710.00	+ 7.60	..
Global Property	320.10	336.90	...	..
Global Fixed Int	563.20	592.80	- 2.00	...
Global Equity	737.90	776.70	+ 9.40	..
Global Cash	229.00	241.10	+ 0.20	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	533.90	561.90	...	...
Managed	485.40	510.90	- 5.60	...
American	526.70	554.40	+13.80	...
UK Equity Fd	546.20	574.90	+ 6.20	...
Japan	205.80	216.60	+ 2.40	...
Index-Lkd	197.20	207.50	+ 0.60	..
High Yield	1001	1054	+14.00	...
Money	431.10	453.70	+ 0.30	...
International	442.80	466.10	+ 7.30	...
Henderson Active	236.30	248.70	+ 1.50	...
Perpetual Active	376.20	395.90	+ 6.30	...
Growth Acc	757.60	797.40	+ 9.10	...
Gilt Edged	470.10	494.80	+ 1.10	...
European	171.40	180.40	+ 1.30	...
Far East	226.40	238.30	+ 6.40	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE 2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	
-do- Acc	196.60	207.00	...	...
Brit Opps Int	171.30	180.60	+ 1.80	..
-do- Acc	224.40	236.30	+ 2.50	..
Cash Initial	170.40	179.40	+ 0.20	...
-do- Acc	309.20	325.50	+ 0.30	...
Equity Initial	774.60	815.40	+10.30	..
-do- Acc	1405.30	1479.30	+18.70	..
Fixed Initial	364.40	383.60	+ 1.70	...
-do- Acc	661.30	696.00	+ 3.00	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	135.90	143.10	+ 0.60	...
-do- Acc	210.40	221.50	+ 1.00	...
Intl Initial	352.50	371.10	+ 4.80	.
-do- Acc	629.70	662.90	+ 8.70	..
Managed Initial	534.80	563.00	+ 6.30	..
-do- Acc	970.30	1021.40	+11.50	...
Property Initial	223.00	234.80	+ 0.20	..
-do- Acc	404.70	426.00	+ 0.50	.
LINCOLN NATIONAL The Quays, 101-105 Oxford Road, Uxbridge, Middx UB8 1LZ 01895 200 200				
Equity Units	15790	..	+148.00	...
Property Units	2794	2941	+18.00	..
Bal Bd Lnce Unit	7696	8103	+87.00	.
2nd Equity Acc	747.10	786.40	+ 7.50	...
2nd High Inc Ac	716.40	754.10	+ 9.00	
2nd Property Acc	251.90	265.20	+ 1.00	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	198.30	208.80	+ 1.10	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	536.30	564.50	+ 6.10	.
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	265.70	279.60	+ 2.90	...
2nd Deposit Acc	303.50	319.50	+ 0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	333.90	351.50	+ 1.00	...
2nd Amer Acc	883.90	930.40	+22.80	..
2nd Intl Mny Acc	267.50	281.60	- 0.80	...
2nd Index Acc	220.40	232.00	+ 0.70	..
2nd Far East Acc	461.70	486.00	+ 9.50	.
2nd Global Acc	196.40	206.70	+ 2.50	...
2nd Euro Acc	182.80	192.50	+ 1.60	...
2nd Japan Acc	182.40	191.90	+ 1.70	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	176.20	185.50	+ 0.70	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	147.40	155.10	+ 1.40	...
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 984 7777				
Equity ‡	610.58	...	+14.70	...
Fixed Interest ‡	477.70	...	+ 4.00	...
Property ‡	445.60	...	+ 0.50	...
Deposit ‡	315.00	...	+ 0.30	..
Mixed ‡	691.50	...	+ 8.90	...
Indexed Stock ‡	231.80	...	+ 1.30	...
International ‡	336.60	...	+ 5.60	...
Equity A ‡	245.10	...	+ 3.40	...
Fixed Int A ‡	211.50	...	+ 1.80	...
Property A ‡	195.40	...	+ 0.30	...
Deposit A ‡	184.70	...	+ 0.20	...
Mixed A ‡	226.70	...	+ 2.90	...
Index Stock A ‡	181.10	...	+ 1.00	...
International A ‡	209.80	...	+ 3.50	...
Equity P ‡	905.70	...	+16.10	...
Fixed Int P ‡	644.80	...	+ 5.80	...
Property P ‡	362.30	...	+ 0.60	...
Deposit P ‡	377.20	...	+ 0.40	...
Mixed P ‡	650.40	...	+10.30	...
Index Stock P ‡	266.50	...	+ 1.30	...
International P ‡	399.20	...	+ 8.30	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap ‡	616.90	...	+ 1.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	1117.70	...	+ 3.40	...
Property Cap ‡	139.40	...	...	...
-do- Acc ‡	241.40	...	+ 0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap ‡	198.60	...	+ 0.40	...
-do- Acc ‡	346.50	...	+ 0.90	...
Equity Cap ‡	362.80	...	+ 1.90	...
-do- Acc ‡	643.90	...	+ 3.90	...
Internatl Cap ‡	246.10	...	+ 2.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	432.00	...	+ 4.10	...
Gtd Deposit Cap ‡	161.60	...	+ 0.10	...
-do- Acc ‡	270.50	...	+ 0.20	7.20
Flexible Cap ‡	374.10	..	+ 2.00	...
-do- Acc ‡	661.60	...	+ 4.10	...
Moneymaker Fd ‡	508.50	...	+ 2.90	..
Capital Growth ‡	2108.50	...	+14.10	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	551.10	580.80	+19.00	..
Amer Rec Bond	588.80	619.40	+18.40	..
Am Smlr Cos Bd	298.90	314.00	+10.40	...
Australasia Bd	299.30	314.30	+ 6.30	..
Commodity Bond	396.10	416.00	+ 2.70	...
Deposit Bond Acc	386.40	405.90	+ 0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1769.60	1858.10	+32.20	...
European Bd Acc	484.10	508.40	+ 0.70	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	873.50	917.20	+19.20	...
Gilt Bond Acc	480.10	504.20	+ 2.30	...
Gold Bond Acc	202.90	213.20	- 2.50	...
High Yield Bond	364.00	382.30	+ 5.30	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	222.40	231.60	+ 0.90	...
International Bd	877.80	921.70	+13.70	...
Japan Bond Acc	238.80	250.80	...	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	240.20	252.30	- 1.10	...
Managed Bonds	1026.00	1077.40	+27.40	...
Prop Bond Acc	422.70	444.00	+ 4.50	..
Rec Bond Acc	917.10	963.10	+11.40	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	339.60	356.60	+ 6.40	.
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	364.80	383.00	+ 2.30	...
UK Equity Acc	403.40	424.70	+ 3.50	...
Special Sits	111.70	117.60	+ 0.60	..
Special Sits Acc	167.70	176.60	+ 1.00	..
North American	225.30	237.20	+ 8.10	...
N American Acc	338.20	356.00	+12.40	...
Pacific Basin	364.30	383.50	+ 4.20	..
Pacific Basin Acc	546.90	575.70	+ 6.90	.
Fixed Interest	296.50	312.20	+ 1.40	..
Fixed Interest Acc	445.60	469.10	+ 2.30	..
Property	179.90	189.40	...	...
Property Acc	270.40	284.70	+ 0.50	.
Deposit	154.30	162.50	...	...
Deposit Acc	231.90	244.20	+ 0.30	.
Managed	296.30	311.90	+ 2.70	..
Managed Acc	409.80	431.40	+ 4.00	..
MERCHANT INVESTORS St Bartholomew House, Lewins Mead, Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	419.80	441.90	+ 0.30	...
UK Equity	427.40	449.80	+ 3.20	..
Gilt Edged	634.60	668.00	+ 1.80	..
Interest Fund	424.50	446.80	+ 0.30	...
Managed Fd	550.30	588.70	+ 3.20	..
Intl Equity	692.10	728.50	+ 6.50	.
North American	260.90	274.20	+ 7.20	..
Far East	473.00	497.80	+ 4.60	..
Intl Currency	258.30	271.90	+ 0.60	..
NPI 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	580.30	610.80	+ 5.50	..
UK Equity	771.80	812.40	+ 9.70	..
Overseas Equity	553.30	582.30	+ 8.00	.
American	514.00	541.00	+11.80	..
Far East	620.20	652.80	+13.40	...
Property	225.80	237.60	- 0.20	...
Fixed Interest	432.20	454.90	+ 1.80	..
Indexed Gilt	248.50	261.50	+ 0.80	..
Deposit	232.40	244.60	+ 0.20	.
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1733.80	1825.10	+29.30	...
Equity Fund	3931.10	4138.00	+59.80	...
Property Fd	634.90	668.30	+ 0.70	...
Fixed Int Fd	667.30	702.40	+ 4.30	...
Deposit Fund	377.00	396.80	+ 0.30	.
Intl Fund	286.60	301.80	+ 5.20	...
OLD MUTUAL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	351.40	370.70	+ 4.30	...
Fxd Interest Acc	264.60	279.30	+ 1.40	...
International Acc	277.80	293.10	+ 4.50	...
Managed Acc	249.70	263.40	+ 2.40	...
Property Acc	213.70	225.50	+ 0.20	...
Money Acc	164.80	173.90	+ 0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	237.40	250.50	+ 2.20	...
Japan Equity Acc	123.40	130.20	+ 1.90	...
N Amer Acc	188.90	199.30	+ 7.20	...
Pacific Acc	161.00	169.90	+ 3.30	...
European Acc	245.70	259.20	- 0.80	...
PEARL ASSURANCE The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	148.20	156.00	+ 0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	332.30	349.80	+ 0.40	...
Inv Equity	1459.60	1536.50	+18.60	...
Inv Managed	996.60	1049.10	+11.80	...
Ret Managed	1165.70	1227.10	+16.10	...
For Provident Mutual see General Accident				
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	414.80	432.10	+ 4.70	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3278				
Managed Fund	958.30	1008.80	+10.00	..
Equity Fund	1893.70	1993.40	+17.50	...
Intl Fund	752.30	791.90	+14.40	...
Fixed Interest	627.80	660.90	+ 2.50	...
Property Fund	490.00	515.80	+ 0.50	...
Cash Fund	390.90	411.50	+ 0.30	..
Pacific Basin	400.80	421.90	+ 9.50	...
N American Fd	361.20	380.30	+14.30	...
Euro Fund	342.30	360.40	+ 5.20	...
Balanced Fund	188.60	198.60	+ 1.00	.
Strategic Fund	203.70	214.50	+ 4.00	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mult Grow (45) ‡	880.20	...	...	...
-do- Acc	497.60	523.80	..	..
Op Prop	514.00	541.00	+ 0.30	...
Op Equity	1314.50	[illegible]	+ 3.80	..
Op High Yield	656.10	690.60	+ 1.90	...
Op Managed	959.80	1010.30	+ 5.80	...
Op Deposit	419.50	441.50	..	...
Japan Smlr	252.60	265.80	+ 1.80	...
Managed Gth	337.90	355.50	+ 2.10	...
Gilt	89.80	94.50	+ 0.30	..
British	448.90	472.10	+ 1.90	..
Global Bond	128.00	134.70	+ 0.10	..
Gold Share	90.50	95.20	- 1.60	..
Option Dist	335.10	352.70	+ 0.50	...
Japan	410.90	432.50	+ 1.90	..
UK Smlr Cos	525.40	553.50	+ 3.40	.
Mixed Growth	569.30	599.30	+ 3.00	..
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3000				
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	456.40	480.90	+ 1.30	...
Equity Fund	653.30	687.60	- 0.80	..
Property Fund	354.50	373.10	...	..
International	563.40	593.00	+ 7.80	...
Pacific Basin	293.70	309.10	+ 4.80	..
United States	352.10	370.60	+ 9.50	..
Gilt Fund	410.70	432.30	+ 1.90	.
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	87.90	93.10	+ 0.70	2.38
Deposit Fund (2)	404.50	428.10	+ 0.40	5.96
Gilt Fund	579.40	613.20	- 2.10	8.60
Global Equity Fd	277.80	294.00	- 3.40	...
Property Fund (46)	119.70	126.70	..	7.11
AG Bond Fund	161.40	170.80	+ 0.20	.
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	730.80	769.80	+ 7.10	...
Fixed Interest	407.40	428.90	+ 2.41	...
Index-Linked	210.20	221.30	+ 1.00	..
International	519.20	546.60	+ 2.61	...
Property	313.50	330.00	- 0.20	...
Cash	280.70	294.70	+ 0.30	...
Managed	551.50	580.60	+ 1.90	...
Cap Gteed Bd	141.40	148.90	- 1.60	..
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	194.574	204.815	+ 0.14	...
Index-Linked	176.00	185.30	- 1.20	...
Fixed Interest	200.60	211.30	+ 0.90	...
Mixed	308.20	324.50	+ 5.10	..
UK Equity	299.80	315.60	+ 4.80	...
International	301.70	317.70	+ 8.10	...
American	346.30	364.40	+16.70	.
Japan	227.70	239.80	+ 2.20	...
European	327.60	344.80	+ 8.10	.
Pacific	387.00	407.40	+12.90	.
Technology	509.90	536.70	+19.10	.
Fxd Bd/Crncy	247.80	261.00	+ 1.20	..
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	226.70	238.80	+ 0.40	...
UK Equity	444.40	467.90	+ 8.00	.
American	324.80	341.90	+13.20	.
Pacific	372.40	392.00	+ 6.70	.
European	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 4.70	.
International	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 7.20	.
Fixed Interest	263.50	277.50	+ 2.80	...
Index Linked	212.40	223.70	+ 1.00	...
Deposit	209.30	220.40	+ 0.20	...
Managed	343.40	361.60	+ 5.50	...
Worldwide	139.70	147.10	+ 1.80	...
Pen Worldwide	151.70	159.80	- 2.40	.
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	2006.10	2068.10	..	..
Safety Fund	265.20	279.20	+ 2.20	...
Growth Fund	278.20	292.90	+ 3.40	...
Opportunity Fd	277.60	292.30	+ 3.30	..
Cash Fund	186.20	196.10	+ 0.10	..
European Fund	427.40	449.90	+ 7.20	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	223.10	234.90	+ 1.70	...
Index-Linked Fd	193.90	204.20	+ 0.90	...
International Fd	324.60	341.70	+ 6.50	...
North American	297.50	313.20	+10.90	...
Property Fund	129.40	136.30	- 0.10	.
UK Equity	304.00	320.10	+ 3.20	...
UK Smaller	321.20	338.20	+ 0.70	.
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT 6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	328.50	345.90	+ 3.50	...
Equity	362.10	381.20	+ 3.60	..
International	305.90	322.10	+ 3.80	..
Property	241.00	253.80	+ 0.20	..
Fixed Interest	245.80	258.90	+ 1.20	..
Index Linked	194.10	204.40	- 1.00	...
Cash	198.80	209.40	+ 0.20	..
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	964.40	1026.00	+ 4.50	...
Cash Fund	361.90	381.40		..
Property Fund	309.90	326.60		...
Equity Fund	1056.80	1124.30	+ 9.60	..
Fxd Interest Fund	519.10	547.00	+ 2.70	..
International	432.50	460.20	- 4.10	..
High Income	882.60	939.00	+ 3.50	.
Far East	606.30	645.00	+ 4.30	.
North American	706.80	752.00	+17.50	..
Special Sits	866.70	922.10	- 7.00	..
Technology	1024.90	1090.40	+20.00	..
Extra Income Fd	480.80	511.50	+ 3.80	.
Gilt Fund	530.80	564.70	+ 0.80	.
European	181.40	193.00	+ 3.00	.
Adventurous Mgd	246.20	259.50	+ 2.60	...
Secure Mgd	171.10	180.30	+ 0.90	...
Equity Inc Dist	137.50	144.90	+ 0.90	4.10
Managed Dist	122.50	129.10	+ 0.90	4.00
Henderson Investment Bonds				
UK Equity Fd	403.80	429.60	- 1.10	..
North America	454.10	483.10	+ 9.80	.
Far East Fund	609.90	648.90	+ 4.60	...
Global Managed	564.10	600.30	+ 1.70	...
Deposit Fund	244.50	257.40	+ 0.20	...
Prime Residential	138.70	146.10	- 0.10	...
European Fund	325.80	346.70	+ 2.80	
Fixed Interest	65.00	69.30	+ 0.30	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	[illegible]	1195.00	+13.40	
Inv Pol 2	1081.20	1138.20	+13.10	.
Inv Pol 3	1024.10	1078.10	+12.40	..
Inv Cash	239.00	257.00	+ 0.60	...
Mixed Fund	546.60	575.50	+ 7.10	..
Equity Fund	680.90	716.80	+ 9.60	.
Property Fund	258.80	272.50	+ 0.30	...
International Fd	577.80	608.30	+10.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	422.60	445.00	+ 4.90	.
Indexed Stock Fd	211.30	224.60	+ 0.90	.
Cash Fund	244.40	257.40	+ 0.20	..
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	455.60	479.50	+ 3.50	..
Equity Acc	569.00	599.00	- 4.50	..
International Acc	381.90	401.90	- 1.20	..
Property	237.10	249.50	+ 0.20	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	287.70	302.90	+ 0.20	.
Equity	1255.90	1322.00	+19.20	...
European	201.70	212.40	+ 4.40	...
Far East	180.90	190.50	+ 2.80	...
Fixed Interest	445.70	469.30	+ 2.70	..
Index Linked	228.00	240.10	- 0.90	..
International	694.50	731.10	+11.50	...
Managed	842.20	886.60	+11.20	...
Nth American	188.00	197.90	+ 6.20	..
Property	387.30	407.70	+ 0.40	..
Pensions				
Cash	458.40	482.60	+ 0.40	.
Equity	1926.40	2027.80	+37.70	.
European	296.20	311.70	+ 7.30	...
Far East	146.10	153.80	+ 2.80	.
Fixed Interest	634.70	668.20	+ 4.60	.
Index Linked	321.30	338.30	+ 1.50	...
International	1038.90	1093.60	+20.80	.
Managed	1248.20	1313.90	+22.70	.
Nth American	250.80	264.00	+ 9.10	...
Property	548.10	577.00	- 0.10	..
Stock Exchange	282.90	297.80	+ 4.30	..
SUN ALLIANCE St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	814.80	857.70	+11.30	..
Equity Fund	1123.00	1182.20	+12.30	..
Fixed Interest Fd	454.70	478.70	+ 2.40	
Index-Linked Fd	345.10	361.30	- 1.50	
Property Fund	538.40	566.80	- 0.90	
International Fd	764.00	804.30	+20.00	
N American Fd	378.70	398.70	+14.00	
Far East Fund	258.00	271.60	+ 9.70	
Deposit Fund	321.20	338.20	- 0.30	
Intnl Bd ‡	1101.90		+ 0.50	...
Worldwide Bond	174.50	183.70	+ 0.70	
European	214.80	226.20	+ 2.30	
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	814.90	857.90	+ 8.70	
Ebor Phoenix Eq	546.30	581.90		
Property Growth				
Property Fund ‡	628.00	...	+ 3.00	
-do- Acc ‡	582.10	...	+ 0.80	
Agricultural Fd ‡	889.60	...	+ 0.70	
-do- Acc ‡	850.10	...	+ 0.80	
Abbey Nat Fd ‡	470.40	...	+ 0.80	
Abbey Nat Acc ‡	493.80	...	+ 0.50	
Investment Fd ‡	436.50	...	+ 3.80	
Investment (A) ‡	417.80	...	+ 3.90	
Equity ‡	1648.20	...	+17.20	
Equity Acc ‡	1571.50	...	+16.20	
Money Fund ‡	516.40	...	+ 0.30	
-do- Acc ‡	491.70	...	+ 0.40	
Actuarial Fd ‡	718.00	...	+ 8.80	
Gilt-Edged Fd ‡	427.90	...	+ 2.20	
-do- Acc ‡	427.90	...	[illegible]	
Retire Annuity ‡	1335.10	...	...	
Immed Annuity ‡	301.00	...	...	
Bldg Soc Life ‡	243.80	...	+ 0.30	
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Acc ‡	1800.50	...	+20.30	
Managed Acc ‡	990.60	...	- 2.30	
Equity Account ‡	1471.80	...	+ 0.90	
Mngd Fund Acc	451.70	475.50	- 1.30	
Equity Fund Acc	637.00	670.50	+ 0.30	
Prop Fund Acc	277.00	291.60	+ 2.80	
Fixed Int Fd Acc	340.50	358.50	+ 0.60	
Money Fund Acc	236.80	249.30	+ 0.30	
Indx-Lnk Secs Ac	219.40	230.90	- 0.30	
Pers Pens Acct ‡	2262.50	...	+13.80	
Pens Mngd Acct	1051.50	1106.90	+ 8.60	
Pens Guarantee	289.90	305.20	- 0.50	
Pens Equity	416.30	438.20	+ 2.30	
Pens Property	320.00	336.90	- 0.20	
Pens Fixed Int	326.10	343.30	+ 1.10	
Pens Intl	286.20	301.80	+ 3.50	
Pens Money	259.40	273.10	+ 0.20	
Pens Indx-Lnkd	213.00	224.30	+ 1.00	
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	1055.90	1111.50	+16.60	
Property Acc	377.30	397.20	+11.70	
Equity Acc	1797.90	1892.60	+28.50	
Fixed Int Acc	452.20	476.30	+ 4.30	
Cash Acc	334.60	352.30	+ 0.30	
Amer Equity Acc	496.10	522.30	+18.20	
Japan Acc	283.60	298.60	+ 0.10	
Pacific Acc	397.00	417.90	+ 4.30	
Far Eastern Acc	866.90	912.60	+ 6.00	
International Acc	674.00	709.50	+ 7.40	
Distribution Fund	296.00	311.60	+ 1.70	6.02
European	221.10	232.80	+ 2.10	
Defird Dist	192.30	202.50	+ 0.90	
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	336.30	354.00	+ 3.70	
Property-Fund	234.00	246.50	+ 0.40	
Fixed Interest Fd	247.10	260.20	+ 1.00	...
Money Fund	214.90	226.30	+ 0.10	
Equity Fund	444.60	468.00	+ 5.40	
WINDSOR LIFE Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	831.70	876.40	+ 5.40	.
Money Fund	340.30	358.20	+ 0.20	...
Equity Fund	768.10	809.50	+ 4.80	...
Fixed Interest	309.70	326.00	+ 0.20	...
Property Fund	369.40	388.80		.
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	741.20	781.60	+13.40	
Income	899.60	947.90	+15.10	..
International Gth	733.20	772.60	+ 8.10	...
Capital Fund	782.70	824.50	+ 2.20	.
Recovery Fund	666.30	702.10	- 2.20	
Japan & General	254.90	268.60	- 2.60	
Formerly AEtna				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	19.36	20.38	+ 0.01	.
Bear	22.68	23.87	+ 0.22	
Owl	25.61	26.96	+ 0.22	
Bull	21.51	22.64	+ 0.22	
Stag	22.74	23.94	+ 0.33	
Gilt Edged	20.56	21.64	+ 0.09	..
Deposit	16.81	17.69	+ 0.01	
Pensions				
Squirrel	26.99	28.41	+ 0.03	.
Bear	32.49	34.20	- 0.37	
Owl	36.35	38.26	+ 0.38	
Bull	28.81	30.33	+ 0.38	
Stag	30.09	31.67	+ 0.53	
Gilt Edged	26.62	28.02	+ 0.12	
Deposit	22.28	23.46	+ 0.02	
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	705.43	...	+ 6.89	
1982 Series				
UK Equity	427.39	449.88	+ 4.02	
N Amer Equity	363.04	382.15	+ 7.82	
Far East Equity	399.02	420.02	+ 6.69	
Fixed	326.01	343.82	[illegible]	
Cash Deposit	219.63	231.19	[illegible]	
Property	158.01	166.33	+ 0.16	
Special Opp	429.84	452.25	+ 3.60	
Managed	371.55	391.11	[illegible]	
Index-Linked Fd	204.68	215.42	[illegible]	
Formerly Crown				
Life Mangd Acc	699.40	731.62	+ 1.70	
Life Fxd Int Acc	412.70	434.40	+ 1.60	
Life Equity Acc	[illegible]	[illegible]	+ 2.00	
Life Money Acc	320.80	337.60	+ 1.20	
Life Inv Tst Acc	915.30	960.40	+ 3.10	
Life Intl Acc	553.80	582.60	+ 3.60	
Life High Inc Acc	639.10	685.40	+ 2.30	
Life Property Acc	299.10	303.20	...	
Crown Brit Inv A	1416.60	...		
Brwin Equity	849.40	893.00	+ 5.90	

مكبرا من الأصل

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Taxation and personal pensions

From Mr R. Kirtley

Sir, I read with interest your articles on pensions (Weekend Money, August 31) and would like to comment on certain aspects rarely mentioned on pensions.

Advisers, insurance companies and the Government constantly declare the importance of pension provision and the associated tax relief while paying contributions. True. They do not, however, readily explain that pension income is taxable on receipt. A modest pension in conjunction with the state old age pension regularly attracts income tax.

The responsible citizen who instigates a pension of low to moderate financial aspiration, say £10 to £20 per week, should be exempt from income tax. This assumes a pension contribution of on average 25 years. As a start they should remove income tax from people receiving modest pensions. A current threshold figure could be around £140 per week to individuals taking out a private pension. An appropriate reward for a citizen not becoming a burden on the State.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT KIRTLEY,
40 Wavertree Road,
SW2.

Folding money

From Mr R. N. Lines

Sir, Can any of your readers explain why it is that the standard small bank cheque is three millimetres wider than the standard small business envelope, so necessitating cheque fold?

Yours faithfully,
R. LINES,
21A Chenies Avenue,
Little Chalfont,
Amersham,
Buckinghamshire.

A late payer writes . . .

"Still rather marooned, here...
I trust you got the cheque in my last bottle."
GED

From Miss E. Potter

Sir, I read with interest your recent article "Six ways to end curse of late payment" which explains how my best excuse, "my cheque is in the post", can be challenged by asking for the cheque number and date.

However, the experienced purchase ledger clerk has a second line of defence: "I'm sorry, I can't tell you that; my computer's down."

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH POTTER,
38 Rose Hill, Worcester.

Mountain reafforestation should be only with deciduous trees

From Mrs Sylvia Disley

Sir, I was sorry to see *The Times* writing on investment in forestry (Money really does grow on trees, August 31) because of the present policy of tax-free profits.

Caroline Merrell draws attention in her article to the "neat rows of Norway spruce and Sitka — the result of nearly 80 years of reafforestation".

Unfortunately, this cannot be accurately described as "reafforestation", for the indigenous trees of Britain's mountainscape were mostly hardwoods such as oak, mountain ash and birch which, being deciduous and deep rooted, draw nitrogen up from deep down and return it to the soil surface through leaf fall. In addition, they support an abundance of wildlife.

In painful contrast, the neat rows of Norway spruce and Sitka, which do not support wildlife, are an unsightly artificiality on our mountainsides. They have shallow roots and the fall of pine needles kills the soil and does nothing to return any goodness to it.

I hope that any future government will address this problem and realise that some people, many of them living in towns, are profiteering at the expense of country dwellers and the natural beauty of Britain's scenery.

Yours faithfully,
SYLVIA DISLEY,
Hampton House,
Upper Sunbury Road,
Hampton,
Middlesex.

Soon without the Woolwich

From Mr B.H. Diss

Sir, Like your correspondent, Mr David Dukes (Branch closures have an added effect on disabled customers, Weekend Money Letters, August), I am unhappy at my building society closing branches and making access less easy than before.

However, my society, the Woolwich, adds insult to injury by making a charge of 40p for every transaction at non-Woolwich Link ATMs regardless of the fact that they have closed their own local branches. I believe that few other societies levy such charges.

No prizes for guessing where my account will go when the Woolwich completes conversion to a plc and credits my account with my free shares!

Yours faithfully,
BRYAN DISS,
44 Cheshire Close,
North Yate,
Bristol.

■ Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and it must be emphasised that independent professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters.

Letters to the Weekend Money section can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

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TA

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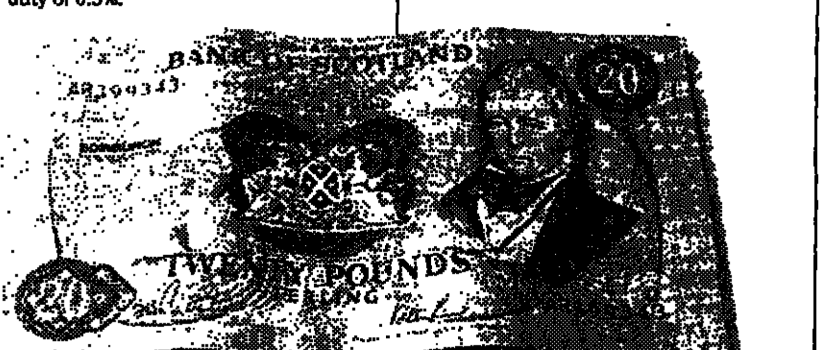

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WARNING: PLEASE REMEMBER THAT PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO THE FUTURE. MARKET AND CURRENCY MOVEMENTS MAY CAUSE THE VALUE OF SHARES, AND THE INCOME FROM THEM, TO FALL AS WELL AS RISE AND YOU MAY GET BACK LESS THAN YOU INVESTED WHEN YOU DECIDE TO SELL YOUR SHARES. *SOURCE: MICROPAL AVERAGE GROWTH PER ANNUM BASED ON AMOUNTS INVESTED EQUALLY IN THE SCOTTISH EASTERN INVESTMENT TRUST, SECURITIES TRUST OF SCOTLAND AND ST ANDREW TRUST WITH NET INCOME RE-INVESTED FROM 1/1/80 TO 1/8/96.
Note: Each investment trust in the Savings Plan pays a management fee to Martin Currie.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grolund Amer	221 10	234.00	+10 10	0.14
Grolund Equity	282.70	300 70	+ 3 50	1 82
Grolund Euro	268.20	283.80†	+ 3.10	0.57
Grolund Expt Bal	132.30	137 10†	- 0.80	2.57
Grolund Gilt	75.29	77 78†	+ 0.30	6.36
Grolund Japan	167 60	177.30	+ 1 40	.
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	673.90	717.00†	+11 70	2.61
General Inc	582.50	598.50†	- 0 80	2.61
UK Growth Acc	460.80	490.30	+ 7 40	2.73
UK Growth Inc	302.60	322.00	+ 4.90	2.73
Higher Inc Acc	801.30	852.50	+ 7 80	4.26
Higher Inc Inc	437 10	465.10	+ 4.30	4.26
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	211.10	223.00†	+ 1.00	5.84
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	92.43	97.62†	+ 0.42	5.84
Nth America	377 60	401 80	+15.50	
Europe	357 60	380 50†	+ 4 10	0.42
Brit Excell	91.19	97.01	+ 1 34	2.93
Brit Fdmntls Acc	115 10	122.50†	+ 1.10	4 90
Brit Fdmntls Inc	76 98	81 90†	- 1.28	4.90
Global Opps	104 80	111.50	+ 2.80	0.03
Balanced Acc	63.52	67.58	+ 0.83	2.80
Balanced Inc	60 10	63.94	+ 0.78	2.80
Japan Acc	45 14	48.03	+ 0.31	
Pac Basin Acc	403.00	428.80	+16 10	0.99
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
Gilts & Fixed Int	128.70	136.80†	+ 0.60	7 14
High Inc Equity	183.40	195.10	+ 0.90	4 40
Worldwide Bond	283.30	300.50†	+ 0.70	4.90
American Growth	374 10	400.00	+15 40	0.31
Asian Pacific	326.30	348.90	+ 8.40	0.04
Assets & Earnings	312.30	334.00	+ 4.80	2.70
Euro Capital Acc	185 10	198.00	+ 3.30	0.80
Extra Inc	43.79	46.58†	+ 0.20	7.70
General	284 60	302.80†	+ 4.20	2.90
Global Opps	68.96	73.35	+ 1 32	0.55
Japan	117 10	125.20	+ 1 30	
Managed Inc	48.79	51.37†	+ 0.27	4.67
Mastertrust	169 40	181.20	+ 2.80	1.01
US Emerging Cos	212.40	228.00	+ 9 10	..
Ethical	82.86	88.14	+ 0.75	2.42
International	138 40	147.20	+ 3.00	0.29
Dividend & Growth	68.19	72.54	+ 0.30	4.33
Global Grth & Sec	73.30	78.34	+ 0.19	2.34
Latin America	84 89	89.03	+ 1.36	
Capital Reserve	145.20	145.30	+ 0.10	4.82
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	2383.00	2458.00	+13.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	59.99	62.28	+ 2.62	0.18
Emerging Mkts	73 17	77 17	+ 1 63	0.04
European	151 00	157 10		
Exempt	1119.00	1190.00	+10.00	1.56
Extra Income #	46.04	49.29†	+ 0.22	6.60
Far East Emg Eco	132.90	139.60	+ 3.30	0.45
Fixed Interest #	25.48	26.50†	+ 0.23	8.96
Fund Inv Tst	151.80	159.30	+ 0.70	9.64
Japan	179 70	186.80†	+ 2 40	
Latin American	60.67	63.43†	+ 1.91	0.77
Pacific	86.57	86.85	+ 2.04	0.29
Property Share	71.96	75.53	+ 0.51	2.37
UK Emerging Cos	73.35	79.29	+ 0.15	1.21
UK Growth	54.08	57.08	+ 0.45	2.05
Aber World Port #	82.62	84.36	+ 0.73	3.43
Ethical	78.48	81.62	+ 0.92	2.16
Aberdeen Gilt Inc #	50.42	50.42†	+ 0.08	7.35

For AEGON see Matheson

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIRWAYS UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0171 256 5888				
Resdl Property #	98.00	106.20		5.36
ALLCHURCHES INV MGMT SVS LTD				
01452 305 958				
Amity Income	91.59	97.18†	+ 0.42	2.25
Income Builder Inc	81.79	87.01	+ 1.11	4.22

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	102.06	108.93	+ 0.89	2.36
American Portfolio	124.26	131.99	+ 5.05	0.88
European Portfolio	134.85	143.95	+ 1.72	0.62
High Income	51.51	51.64†	+ 0.44	7.15
Japanese Portfolio	67.77	72.00	+ 0.87	..
Pacific Portfolio	156.10	167.86	+ 3.66	1.44
UK Equity	98.90	105.74	+ 0.74	3.02
UK Equity & Bd	57.70	61.13	+ 0.53	6.27
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	761.93	773.45	+ 4.85	4.32
Fxd In Sec	153.23	153.65	+ 0.29	9.29
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	761.23	772.73	+ 7.27	4.31
Investment Acc	£34.70	£35.23	+33.64	...
Fixed Int Inc	126.77	127.27	+ 0.43	9.11
Fixed Int Acc	225.77	226.67	+ 0.74	
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Beckman Intl	87.17	92.11	+ 0.09	3.12
Beck Bio-Tech	43.33	45.84	+ 0.71	
Acorn Ethical Tst	188.17	197.60	+ 3.76	0.43
City Fin Assets	84.27	88.48	+ 0.89	1.51
City Fin America	111.92	117.53	+ 0.07	..
City Fin Intl	91.71	96.30	+ 0.56	0.46
City Fin Japan	146.92	154.28	+ 0.32	
Friars Hse Cap	327.57	344.22	+ 1.61	2.46
Friars Hse Inc	201.24	214.09	+ 0.87	3.52
Buckley Wrld Gth	143.81	152.44†	+ 0.79	
J Sid Inc/Gth Inc	55.54	58.32	+ 0.12	3.30
Shaw Utilities	57.86	58.87	- 0.49	8.18
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	57.53	61.04†	+ 0.96	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0345 772 233				
American Grth	80.46	85.60	+ 2.97	
Dragon Growth	72.22	77.24	+ 1.72	0.48
Equity High Inc	89.25	95.60†	+ 1.15	4.09
-do- Accum	129.20	138.40	+ 1.88	4.09
Extra Income Inc	26.36	27.75	+ 0.12	7.58
Extra Income Acc	28.58	30.08	+ 0.12	7.58
European Grth	63.17	67.62	+ 1.21	0.94
Evergreen	32.11	34.34	+ 0.34	..
General Equity	104.86	111.05	+ 1.54	2.92
Japan Growth	49.20	52.34	+ 0.52	..
Pedigree Grth	65.18	69.34	+ 0.85	2.22
Pcd Sm Cos Inc	39.35	41.86	+ 0.18	1.43
-do- Accum	41.69	44.35	+ 0.19	1.43
Retirement Inc #	27.91	29.69	+ 0.51	5.70
Special Sits	47.46	50.49	+ 0.19	2.34
UK & Overseas	59.52	63.15	+ 1.02	0.73
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Balanced	69.26	72.14†	+ 1.09	3.98
Capital	83.84	87.33†	+ 1.21	2.24
High Income	50.86	52.97†	+ 0.29	7.15
Top 50	56.37	58.71†	+ 0.70	2.06
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	198.19	206.45	+ 3.04	4.45
Long Gilt	42.56	44.30	+ 0.32	6.39
Monthly Inc Plus	48.88	50.92	+ 0.27	8.80
Preference Share	47.76	49.75	+ 0.19	7.84
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	141.76	147.67	+ 2.12	5.78
Managed Fund	78.24	81.50	+ 1.36	2.63
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	63.60	66.83	+ 0.42	1.70
-do- Accum	63.35	65.99	+ 0.50	1.70
UK & General	98.63	102.74	+ 1.82	2.51
-do- Accum	127.92	133.25	+ 2.36	2.51
UK Growth	196.14	204.31	+ 3.73	1.37
International Growth Funds				
Europe Growth	212.92	221.79	+ 3.61	0.65
Far Eastern Grth	136.70	142.40	+ 2.62	0.02

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Sector Value Inc #	104.50	110.40	+ 2.10	3.66
Sector Value Grth	105.40	111.30	+ 2.00	2.12
Hy 5 Europe	100.49	105.49	+ 1.70	2.83
Slater Grth	167.30	176.60	+ 3.10	0.74
JUPITER UT MGRS LTD				
0171 581 3020				
World Health	204.40	217.40	+ 7.90	
Income #	212.41	225.96	- 1.92	4.29
UK Growth	85.65	91.11	+ 0.60	1.88
Intl Growth	88.19	93.81†	- 1.54	0.45
Ecology	104.48	111.14	+ 2.04	0.87
European	200.49	213.28	+ 3.09	0.58
Far Eastern	307.90	327.50	+ 7.00	...
UK Special Sits	51.10	54.30	+ 0.37	..

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
N Amer Growth	136.28	144.79†	+ 6.19	0.80
Special Sits Growth	27.44	29.19†	+ 0.29	1.93
UK Growth	466.29	498.05	+ 4.79	2.51
-do- Accum	632.70	673.08	+ 6.50	2.51
MW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01630 825887				
Balanced Fd #	1470.40	1493.80	+ 6.08	2.90
Income #	1026.30	1042.70	+ 1.20	4.40
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	166.90	170.90†	.	4.67

For Manulife see Canada Life

ADVERTISMINT

Sminting index soars to new record

Makes your mouth a much nicer place.

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	99.23	102.70†	+ 0.40	7.25
Gilt Yield	117.50	123.90†	+ 1.00	6.84
Global Income	234.70	249.70†	+ 4.10	3.57
High Yield	155.20	165.10	+ 1.70	5.43
-do- Accum	505.00	537.20	+ 5.50	5.43
Smllr Cos Div	63.09	67.12†	+ 0.50	3.29
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	157.10	167.10	+ 6.70	
Asian Growth	334.80	356.20	+ 8.40	0.23
-do- Accum	393.40	418.50	+ 9.90	0.23
North American	109.30	116.30	+ 4.40	0.23

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
0800 363432				
M & S Inv Pfolio	179.20	184.80	+ 3.10	2.54
-do- Accum	212.70	219.30	+ 3.80	2.54
UK Sel Pfolio	159.30	164.10	+ 2.80	2.53
-do- Accum	191.90	197.90	+ 3.50	2.53
UK 100 Cos	116.10	118.10†	+ 2.40	2.06
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	71.83	76.42	+ 0.43	3.78
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				

Shares end week on high note

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
556	419	**Allied Domecq**	467	+ 2½	6.3	17.7
625	500	Bulmer (HP)†	567½		2.9	19.0
131	96	Burn Stewart	97½	- 2	0.4	21.0
775	615	Glenmorangie A	775		1.9	19.9
491½	411	**Grand Met**	481	+ 1½	4.0	20.4
493	436	**Guinness**	468½	- 2½	4.0	15.3
378	315	Highland Dist	347½		2.9	16.7
195	150	Macallan-Glen	157		1.2	22.5
603	342½	Matthew Clark	365	- 21½	8.2	17.4
141	93	Marydan Wi	122	- 3	4.6	11.1
2617½	1606¼	SA Breweries	1650		2.2	

BANKS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
3716¾	2743¾	ABN-AMRO†	3525	+ 40¾	3.9	12.3
663	528	**Abbey Natl**	606	- 3	4.8	11.2
385	315	Allied Irish	378	+ ½	4.8	10.8
343	265	Aus New Z	328½	- 1½	5.6	8.1
5443¾	3843¾	Bank America	5387½			
316	227½	**Bank Scotland**	256		3.3	10.8
953	683	**Barclays†**	946	+ 4	3.7	10.3
490	413	Bk of Ireland†	490	- 4	3.9	11.2
492	379	Cater Allen	416½		9.0	12.4
5668¾	4031¼	Citicorp	5662½			
392	318	Close Bros	345		3.3	15.3
£157½	£131½	Commerzbk	£145¼	+ 6¼	3.5	
1350	1068¾	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1084¾	- 6¼	0.5	
3417½	2950	Deutsche Bk	3053¾	+ 43¼	2.5	
806¼	593¼	Espirito Santo	803½		4.4	10.8
1507	1177¼	Fuji Bank Y	1209	+ 14¼	0.4	
472	333	Gerrard Nat	354		8.6	10.6
267½	196	Hambros	256		3.7	
1192	931	**HSBC†**	1189	+ 25	4.0	11.3
1164	930	HSBC HK†	1160	+ 25	4.1	11.0
436	385	Irish Perm†	436	+ 1	3.3	11.9
177	143	King Shaxson	168½	- 1	6.7	14.6
458	405	Leopold Jt	455		5.4	16.5
391½	294½	**Lloyds TSB†**	391	- 2	3.8	16.6
653	566	Nat Aust Bk	629½	- 2½	7.0	8.0
711	605½	**Nat West†**	676	- 7	4.9	9.7
66	49½	Rea Brothers†	53½		3.3	21.0
59[illegible]	468	**Ryl Bk Scot**	489	- 1	4.3	10.8
146[illegible]	1185	**Schroders**	1330	+ 5	1.6	15.7
1132½	890	Schroders N/V	1060	+ 20	2.0	13.2
134	99¼	Singer & Fried	130		4.1	9.4
729	547	**Stand Chart**	703½	+ 7½	2.1	13.7
11	8½	Union†	11½		3.3	12.2
£174	£131¼	Wells Fargo	£164¼		2.6	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
612	436	Brammer	611	+ 4½	3.0	17.3
25½	18	Bridgend Gp	25		3.0	
115	76	Brit Fittings	98½	- 2	4.4	11.1
290	245	[illegible]	285		5.6	22.6
160	105	Cavendish	140	- 1½	3.0	9.2
107½	78	Charles Sidney	68½		5.4	12.5
79	54½	Cook (DC)†	70½		3.7	8.6
404¾	276¾	Cooke▼	375	+ 2½	3.6	12.9
175	120½	Eng Molec	137½		7.0	9.6
163	129½	Dennison El	142½		2.3	14.3
434	329	Diploma	345	- ½	5.3	12.1
427	328	Electrocomponents	397	+ 7½	2.1	25.4
314	172	Eurodis Elec	186½	+ 2	3.3	17.9
134	65	Eurodollar	122½	+ 5	4.2	18.3
105	76	European Mart	104	- ½	6.2	11.7
375	263	Evans Halshaw†	264½		7.2	11.1
67	48	Fife Indmw	49½		8.5	7.3
338	248	Firearch Grp	311½		2.6	
30½	16½	Gardner†	29½		3.7	11.8
81	39½	Glenchewton†	71½		1.8	21.1
91	72½	Gowrings	78		4.7	12.4
101	97	Hamlet†	92½		8.1	
292	216	Harris (Philip)	260½		3.9	19.6
295½	200½	Heatlam	293½	+ 1	2.2	24.2
200	132	Holders Tech†	176½		4.2	16.6
192½	153	GA Intl	191½		1.7	17.4
316	231	Inchcape	303½	- 7	3.8	
78	33	Jacks (Wm)	74½		2.9	30.8
260	169	Kwik-Fit	248	- 1½	2.5	17.4
390	299	Lex Service†	377	+ ½	5.1	12.1
156	119	Lookers†	127½	- 1	8.2	7.1
17	10¼	Malaya Grp	12½		6.6	17.9
9½	6¼	Middlesex†	7¼		1.1	11.4
47	31	Molyneux†	40½		0.7	
565	440	Nortiam†	503		1.9	14.7
349	230	Normanders†	287½	- 1	1.0	10.6
162	108	PCT†	125	+ 2½	7.7	12.1
341	272	Pendragon	322½		3.6	15.5
211	145	Perry Gp	182½	+ 1	5.8	9.1
745	602	Premier Farnell	678½	+ 9½	2.0	18.1
190	135	Quarts Group†	165½		4.9	12.4
315	185	RSA†	230		2.2	29.2
3	2	Reece	2½			
54	25½	Ronson▼	29½		7.1	9.1
4½	3	Ross Gp	3½			
56	46½	SEP Indl	53½		3.9	11.5
195	98	Salture	39	- 10	1.3	32.1
379½	246	Time Products	379½	+ 2	3.3	
41	30	Tones Hire	35½		4.5	18.6
292½	123	UNIGEC	277½	+ 9	1.9	24.4
332½	262½	Vardy (Reg)†	302½		2.7	14.2
463	325	Wholesale Fits	450		3.7	18.8
59	29½	Wilshaw†	33½	+ ½	3.1	9.1
149¾	75½	Wyndham	140		2.0	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
299	200	Quadramatic	288½		3.8	16.8
18	4	Quadrant Gp	7½		4.2	
65	62	Radiant Metal	65			
69	53	Ranconrest	60½		1.0	14.8
83	56½	Record	64	- 2	7.2	12.1
324	231	Renold	309½	+ 7	2.3	14.8
36	13	Richards Group	13½		20.8	
89	72½	Richardson West	73½		6.3	8.2
246	187	**Rolls-Royce**	243	+ 8	2.6	23.9
258	171	Rotork†	254½	+ 2	3.1	21.0
192	160	Rubicon	175	- 1	4.4	12.6
1568¾	1187½	SKF 'B'	1569¾	+ 12½	3.2	8.8
112	92½	Senior Eng	108	+ 1½	4.1	14.7

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
77¼	67	Branbao	75¾		2.1	
291	259	Dunnest†	280	+ 1	2.6	44.6
132	113	BZW Conv	120½		8.3	
572½	468	Candover	568½	+ 5	3.0	31.9
68	39	Central Euro Gwth	67	+ ½	0.8	
273½	177	Cord Asset	223		1.7	
75	62	Danae Inv Inc†	64½		16.0	6.8
390	325	Derby Cap	385	+ 2½		
160	136	Derby Inc†	141½		19.9	7.3
744	654	Dunedin Inc Gt	704	+ 1½	5.0	24.6
372	314	Dunedin Smlr	363	+ 1	3.2	46.4
885	789	Dunedin Wwde	831	+ 6½	1.4	72.5
115½	90½	Edin Dragon	93	+ 1		

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
31	15	Mercury Wld Wts	12½			
616	567	Monks Inv Tst	614½	+ 4½	2.0	47.2
170½	151	Morg Gren Inc	156	+ ½	4.0	26.4
70½	53	Morg Wts	55½			
78½	57¾	Morg Lon Amer	73½		0.4	
32	20	Morg Wts	29½			
131	111	Murray Ext	130½		2.3	49.3
24	16	Murray End Bds	17½			
95	81¼	Murray Emg Eco	83		1.4	75.1
35½	21	Murray Em Ec Wt	22½			
67	54	Murray Euro	64½		0.7	
392	338	Murray Income	368	+ 1	4.5	
429	377	Murray Intl	414½	+ 2½	3.8	30.3

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
97	75	City of Lon	92½		7.7	12.0
125	90	Cordiant	107			
1731¾	1300	Daily Mail	1512½		1.5	36.8
1663¾	1128¾	Daily Mail 'A'	1392½	- 3½	1.6	35.9
648	495	Dorling Kind	631½	+ 12	1.0	27.7
753½	530	EMAP	735	- 5½	1.9	31.9
1488	1099	**EMI**	1293½	- 6½	2.4	43.0
1051	645½	Elsevier†	1027½	- 16	2.2	25.4
1338	1030	Euromoney Ps	1295		4.2	26.7
42½	15	Fitch	32½			12.6
627½	443	Flextech	537½	- 6		
251	198	GCI Group	223		3.3	
257¾	174	GWR Grp	220		1.4	35.5

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1280	1075	Henderson Ad	1272½	+ 15	4.4	20.3
255	212	Invesco†	242½	- 6½	2.5	16.4
52½	79½	Investment Co†	95		5.8	15.4
298	228	Ivory Sime†	278		3.7	20.7
230½	163¼	Jardine Strat	207½	+ 2½	4.5	
172½	98	Johnson Fry	157½	- 2½	3.2	6.9
395	229	Liberty Intl	383		4.9	21.7
256½	219	Lon Forfaiting	256½	+ 2	4.5	12.8
251	215	London Pacific	212½		8.0	10.4
117	87½	Lon Scot Ut	105		3.1	19.8
166	139	Man ED & Fl	159	- 1	8.0	7.6
1354	1253	M & G	1141½	+ 7½	3.7	21.2
1022	841	MAM	1007½	+ 11	4.3	19.0
109	34	Nat Home Loan	36½		1.3	4.3
2575	1850	Perpetual	2345	+ 7½	2.6	20.8
465	356	Prudential†	469½		4.0	17.7
335	310	Rathbone Bro	320½		3.9	15.0
99	37½	Rutland Tst	56½	- ½	2.7	20.6
95	42	SEC Group	94½		5.6	18.5
457	290	S & U	432		4.6	11.4
607	439½	Smith Pacific	575	- 2½	2.1	22.7
57	23	Trendy Ltd	46½		2.6	
8	5	Trio Hldgs	5½			

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
499½	258	Lower Chem	498		2.6	19.1
209½	149½	MFI†	206	+ 1	2.7	24.2
512½	416½	**Marks Spencer**	510	+ 6	2.8	21.0
635	525	Menzies (John)	570		3.1	14.3
21½	15½	Merchant Retail	21½	+ ½		
1305	615	Moss Bros	1175		1.9	36.7
597	420	**Next**	596½	+ 8	2.5	29.0
63	33½	Oliver (G)	35			
555	400	Ottakar's Intl	530		2.8	17.7
80	66	Partridge Fine†	76½	+ 2	4.7	12.9
56	32	QS Hldgs	42		4	
279½	191	Rexchy's†	278½		2.7	30.9
105	91½	Sears	95		5.2	
34	14½	Signet Group	26			
534	399	Smith WH†	505	+ 7½	3.9	
1050	820	Sotheby's†	1040	+ 40	2.0	
362	279½	Storehouse	314½	- 2½	2.9	17.9
130	90	Style▼	115		5.1	17.9
201	181	T & S Stores	197		4.5	11.7
410	261½	Thorn	372	+ 3½	4.4	19.9
171	159	Tie Rack	167		2.1	16.7
3½	2½	Upton & South	3½			
664	542	Vendome†	602½	- 7	2.1	
29½	12	WEW Group	26½		1.7	
141	66	Waches#	69		3.8	
94	52	Wld of Leather	80		2.7	
227½	198	Wyevale	227½		3.2	16.7

PHARMACEUTICALS

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
236	167½	Brit Biotech	192½	- 8		
715	343	Cantab Pharma	645½			
635	475½	Celltech	517½			
386	222	Chiroscience	385½	- 2½		
447	156	Cortecs	256	- 5½		
969	767	**Glaxo Wellcome†**	955	+ 13	2.9	13.6
475	305½	ML Laboratories	331½	+ 5½		
286	238	Medeva†	247	- ½	2.2	14.0
245	138	Peptide Thera	205	+ ½		
825	574	Scotia	666			
266	192	Shire Pharms	213½			
91	63	SkyePharma	82			
728½	627½	**SmithKline**	767	- 3	2.5	27.5
552	445	Therp Anti Inc	531	- 1		
623	457½	Xenova	482½	- 2½		
1557½	1216	**Zeneca**	1547½	+ 1	2.6	33.4

SUPPORT SERVICES

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
1550	883	ADT	1380			
149	135½	Action Cp Sys	135½			
135	97	Alpha Airpts	110½	- 1½	5.7	12.0
38	26	Alphameric	35	+ 1		
267½	215	Allums WS	267½	+ 3	2.7	21.6
190	129	BNB Res	180½		4.5	10.7
400	280	BPP	387½		3.2	18.6
203	155	BSM	199		4.7	14.2
1950	1015	BTG	1950	+ 30	0.2	
1350	400	Bioland©	725			
189	123	Brit Data Mgt	176½	+ 1	3.8	25.6
110½	60	Brooks Service	108½		3.5	18.5
488	373	Business Post	411	- ½	2.6	23.7

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
494	364	Hend Strata	477½		0.4	
158	127	Herald	149½	+ ½	0.5	
103	82	Herald C	92½			
94	71	High Income Tt	85½	+ 1½	9.4	
157	127	H Govett Smlr	146		1.9	62.0
110½	93½	HTR Jap Smaller	100	+ ½		
16	9	IBS Ent	12			
151½	114	IBS UK Smlr	151½	+ ½	2.4	34.7
148	129	Inv Capt	144	+ ½	4.6	25.5
157	101	Int Biotech	117½		1.1	
70	31	Int Wts	38			
115	95	Intl C	100½			
114	93½	INVESCO Asia	101½	+ 1½	0.7	
65	43	INVESCO Blue	47½	+ ½	22.1	4.9
181	135	INVESCO Eng Int	175½	+ ½	0.7	59.2
92	75½	INVESCO Jap Dis	81	+ 1½	0.4	

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
7½	1½	Brent Walker	2½			
39	31	Bundenet	35		6.7	14.6
248	179	Capital Corpn	199	+ 3	5.2	32.0
86	50	Clivedent	80		2.6	15.5
85	56	Clubhaus	70½			
251	163	Eurocamp	177½		7.7	8.5
208	139	Euro Disney	149½	- 1½		
214	148	Euro Leisure	175			
19	12¼	Famagold	16½	+ ¼		
86	48½	First Choice†	63		7.6	
400	345	First Leisure†	358½	+ 6½	2.8	20.8
190	142	Friendly Hotels	178½		4.0	22.5
879	619	**Granada†**	875½	+ 11	1.7	22.2
57	25	Hi-Tec Sports	43½	+ 1½		17.4
229½	148	Hornby	229½		2.4	
563	423	Havelock	511½	+ 4	2.2	18.8

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1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
137	103½	INVESCO Korea	106½			
63½	51¾	INVESCO Tokyo	54½	+ 1½		
95½	65	J Fry 2nd Ut	72		11.9	
79	68	J Fry Euro U	69		8.0	12.6
260	224	JF Fledg Jap	230½	+ 2½		
88	74	Jupiter Eu Inct	87½	+ ½	11.1	9.6
7	4	Jupiter Er IncWt	5½			
83	70	Jupiter Grd Capt	81½		11.9	10.4
29	24½	Jupiter Geo Pld	28½	+ ½		

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
193	155	Jarvis Hotels	159	+ 1		
301½	201	Jurys Hotel†	281½	+ 7½	2.8	
31½	23½	Kunick	28½		2.9	24.0
213	143	**Ladbroke**	209½	+ 2½	3.6	27.4
309	212½	London Clubs	278½	+ 4	3.5	18.5
489	188	Man Utd	448½	- 1	1.3	14.5
96½	77¾	Mandarin Ornl	94	+ 3	3.8	20.4
345	278	Millennium & Copt	321	+ ½	0.3	34.6
142	89	Northern	129½		3.9	14.7

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
34	39¼	M&G Inc Inv Tst Inct	27½		24.3	4.9
133	122	M&G Inc Package†	136½	+ 1½	5.3	22.7
72	65¼	M&G Inc Zero Div	72	+ ½		
25½	21	M&G Rec Cap	25½	+ 1		
50	44½	M&G Rec Geared†	49½	+ ½	13.8	9.1
36½	23	M&G Rec Inc†	25½	+ ½	26.7	4.7
148	133	M&G Rec Package†	147	+ 2	4.6	26.9
100½	88½	M&G Rec Zero Div	100½	+ ½		
145½	114	M Currie Euro†	145½	+ ½	0.6	
112	97½	M Currie Japan	98½	+ ½		
167	143	M Currie Pac	150½	+ 2½	0.7	
242	222	Majedie	237½	+ ½	3.3	36.6
290	235	Merchants	268	+ 3	6.1	22.2
107	91	Mercury Euro Pv	107	+ ½	2.2	41.2
33	22½	Mercury Eur Wt	32			
110	92	Mercury World	101		1.2	76.3

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
610	455	Abbott Mead	581	+ 3½	1.9	30.5
305	165	Adscene	194½	- ½	5.6	
65½	37¼	Aegis Gp	65½	+ 1½	0.4	21.1
27½	16¼	Atlantic Telecom	27½			
19	14	BBB Design©	19			
425	273	Barbour Index†	381½	+ 4	3.0	45.6
9	5¼	Birkdale	7½	- ½		
340	325	Black (A&C)	340		5.1	12.0
463	238	Blenheim Gp	367½	+ 12½	3.6	17.7
318	248	Border TV†	280½		2.8	19.2
417	356	Bristol	416		4.2	22.2
595½	376	**BSkyB†**	580½	+ 9	1.2	42.6
188	133	CIA Gp†	166		1.7	19.2
734	530	Capital Radio	649		2.1	24.5
534	379½	Carlton Comm	472½	+ 4½	2.7	16.0
558	363	Chrysalis	505½		0.7	

OTHER FINANCIAL

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
143	66½	Aberdeen Tst	87½		4.0	17.2
118½	77	BWD†	111		6.0	12.2
45½	34½	Berry Bon Nbl	44½		2.2	
345	252	Botac Inv	282			
205	151	Brown Dolphin†	190½		4.9	11.9
805	695	Caledonia	724	+ 4	3.1	23.5
2500	1700	Camellia	2475	+ 175	1.7	20.6
276	213	Cattles	269½		3.4	18.0
42	18	Christie	31½			
147	90	EFT Group	135½		2.1	14.8
725	613	EFM	614		5.1	15.0
118	85	Exco	86½	- 1	13.0	10.4

BRITISH FUNDS

1996 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
220¼	215[illegible]	Treas 2% 1998	220¼†		0.91	5.64
103¼	100[illegible]	Conv 10% 1996	100[illegible]	- [illegible]	9.93	5.72
101[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7% 1997	101[illegible]		6.93	5.74
107[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 13¼% 1997	102[illegible]	- [illegible]	12.92	5.62
107[illegible]	102	Exch 10½% 1997	102	- [illegible]	10.29	5.63
107[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 1997	102[illegible]†		8.52	5.79
114[illegible]	102[illegible]	Exch 15% 1997	109[illegible]	- [illegible]	13.68	5.87
108[illegible]	104[illegible]	Exch 9¾% 1998	104[illegible]		9.32	5.97
102[illegible]	100[illegible]	Treas 7¼% 1998	101[illegible]		7.14	6.10
104[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	100[illegible]		6.75	5.88
116[illegible]	112[illegible]	Treas 14% 1998-01	112[illegible]	- [illegible]	12.48	6.15
122[illegible]	117[illegible]	Treas 15½% 1998	117[illegible]		13.23	6.28
114[illegible]	110[illegible]	Exch 12% 1998	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	10.80	6.38
108[illegible]	105[illegible]	Treas 9½% 1999	106[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.92	6.43
116[illegible]	112[illegible]	Exch 12¼% 1999	113[illegible]	+ [illegible]	10.83	6.51
112[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 10½% 1999	109[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.59	6.58
98[illegible]	95	Treas 6% 1999	98[illegible]	+ [illegible]	6.09	6.54
112[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 10¼% 1999	109[illegible]		9.35	6.71
108[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2000	106[illegible]†	+ [illegible]	8.44	6.81
105[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8% 2000	103[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.71	6.93
124[illegible]	119[illegible]	Treas 13% 2000	120[illegible]	+ [illegible]	10.83	6.91
114	109[illegible]	Treas 10% 2001	111	+ [illegible]	9.01	7.05
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
101[illegible]	95½	Treas 7% 2001	99[illegible]	+ ½	7.04	7.11
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Treas 9¾% 2002	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.74	7.30
105[illegible]	99[illegible]	Treas 8% 2003	103[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.74	7.35
117[illegible]	39	Treas 10% 2003	113[illegible]†	+ [illegible]	8.79	7.41
119[illegible]	114[illegible]	Treas 11½% 2001-04	116[illegible]†	+ ½	9.88	7.17
83[illegible]	78[illegible]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	81[illegible]	+ [illegible]	4.27	6.42
114[illegible]	107[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2004	111[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.53	7.57
96[illegible]	91[illegible]	Treas 6¾% 2004	95[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.10	7.56
108[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2005	105[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.06	7.64
114[illegible]	108[illegible]	Conv 9½% 2005	111[illegible]	+ 1	8.52	7.64
131[illegible]	123[illegible]	Treas 12½% 2003-05	127[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.81	7.46
101[illegible]	94[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	98[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.62	7.71
103[illegible]	96[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2006	99[illegible]†	+ [illegible]	7.76	7.75
104[illegible]	97[illegible]	Treas 8% 2002-06	100[illegible]		7.95	7.76
125[illegible]	118[illegible]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	121[illegible]	+ [illegible]	9.69	7.46
108[illegible]	101[illegible]	Treas 8½% 2007	106[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.09	7.79
138[illegible]	130[illegible]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	134[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	10.04	7.42
112[illegible]	105	Treas 9% 2008	108[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.26	7.84
104[illegible]	98[illegible]	Treas 8% 2009	100[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.97	7.90
LONGS (over 15 years)						
88[illegible]	81[illegible]	Treas 6¼% 2010	85[illegible]	+ [illegible]	7.33	7.99
112[illegible]	104[illegible]	Conv 9% 2011	108[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.28	7.98
113[illegible]	104[illegible]	Treas 9% 2012	108[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.28	8.00
82[illegible]	75[illegible]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	78[illegible]†	+ ½	6.98	7.79
103[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2013	99[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.05	8.05
101[illegible]	93[illegible]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	96[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.02	8.05
103[illegible]	95[illegible]	Treas 8% 2015	99[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.06	8.04
111[illegible]	102[illegible]	Treas 8¾% 2017	106[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.24	8.10
141[illegible]	130[illegible]	Exch 12% 2013-17	135[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.86	8.11
99[illegible]	95[illegible]	Tr 8% 2021	99[illegible]	+ 1[illegible]	8.08	8.06
UNDATED						
45½	41[illegible]	War Ln 3½%	42[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.17	
32[illegible]	29[illegible]	Treas 2½%	30[illegible]		8.13	
50[illegible]	46[illegible]	Consols 4%	48[illegible]	+ [illegible]	8.31	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
119[illegible]	111[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	117[illegible]	+ [illegible]	0.27	2.08
182[illegible]	176[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2001	182[illegible]	+ [illegible]	2.74	3.34
179[illegible]	171[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2003	178[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.01	3.46
116[illegible]	112[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	116[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.07	3.47
187[illegible]	179[illegible]	Treas IL 2% 2006	186[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.25	3.56
167[illegible]	161[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	167[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.38	3.64
173[illegible]	166[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	172[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.44	3.68
145	136[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	141[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.49	3.70
152[illegible]	145[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	150[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.55	3.74
145	138[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	143[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.60	3.76
122	115[illegible]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	119[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.60	3.74
120[illegible]	113[illegible]	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	117[illegible]	+ [illegible]	3.60	3.75

1996 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
213	95	Cafe Inns	180		1.9	13.2
120	58	Country Gdns	100		1.7	10.3
1700	860	Dawson Hldgs	1600		2.5	14.1
188	31	Firecrest#	44½			19.0
37½	14	Freepages	33½	+ ½		
117	92	Megalomedia	105			
475	24	Memory Corp	36½	- 2		
154	85¾	Old English Pub	154	+ 8	0.8	67.3
445	352½	Pet City	352½	- 2½		
585	524	Southern News	536		3.7	14.1
79½	50	Southern Vectis	79½		3.1	18.0
325	122	Surrey Fr Imps	325	+ 6	0.9	
79½	46	Trocadero	86			

Source: FT Information

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RACING: DERBY RUNNER-UP TO GO ONE BETTER IN ST LEGER

Dushyantor can deliver telling blow for Cecil

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

THE glory attached to winning a classic race may not carry a price tag but the first prize of £174,688.40 on offer for landing the Pertemps St Leger at Doncaster today will be of special significance to two Titans of the Turf.

The pennies, as well as the the pounds, matter as Henry Cecil and Saeed Bin Suroor, the licence holder for Sheikh Mohammed's Godolphin operation, are now locked in an epic duel for the trainers' championship.

Beneath the calm exterior presented by Cecil, there is a burning desire to win the coveted title for an eleventh time and prove a point to Sheikh Mohammed after their much-publicised split last year. With Cecil holding a narrow lead over the Godolphin trainer, the outcome of today's classic could be crucial in deciding the title.

While **Flying Legend** takes his chance after winning a decent handicap at Newmarket in a canter three weeks ago, Cecil's main hope of victory lies with Dushyantor.

The Khaled Abdulla-owned son of Sadler's Wells carried this column's hopes in the Derby, where only the determination of Pat Eddery enabled him to finish second after meeting interference. The hard race at Epsom was almost certainly responsible for a subsequent below-par effort in the Irish equivalent.

However, after a decent break, he showed good acceleration in a slowly-run Great Voltigeur Stakes to account for **Mons**. Ten winners of the York race have gone on to win the season's final classic. The form shown in group company justifies favouritism but it is the encouragement offered by his recent homework which is the compelling factor. During the first half of the year, Dushyantor tended to be rather idle on the Newmarket gallops but of late he has worked with zest.

"Willie Ryan, who rides him a lot at home, feels he is a much better horse than before. We must be very hopeful he runs well," Cecil said. "He has benefited from the York race and the St Leger trip is the one thing he does need."

Shantou finished just over a length behind Dushyantor at Epsom and won recently on easy ground at Windsor. However, the fast conditions will count against the John Gosden-trained runner. "His chance will be compromised by this ground," Gosden confirmed yesterday.

Gordi has been the best backed runner this week and the Dermot Weld-trained winner of the Queen's Vase is a potent threat, along with Mons, who ran Dushyantor to half a length at York.

However, in the largest St Leger field since 1982, it will be no surprise if Cecil keeps an eye on **Sharaf Kabeer**, the Godolphin runner whom Dettori has deserted. A year ago, Classic Cliche, a former Warren Place inmate transferred to Godolphin, beat the Cecil-trained Minds Music.

The understandable anguish felt by Cecil that day can give way this time to joy as **DUSHYANTOR** provides him with a third classic this year — and puts the trainers' crown within his grasp.

☐ Clerkenwell may miss the St Leger. The colt has a sore heel and a decision about his participation will be made today.

BIG-RACE LINE-UP

3.40 PERTEMPS ST LEGER STAKES

C4

(Group I: 3-Y-O: £174,688: 1m 6f 132yd) (12 runners)

401	(2)	232011	CLERKENWELL 24 (D,G) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 9-0 (b c Sadler's Wells - Forlorn) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)	W R Swinburn	92
402	(4)	6-62230	DESERT BOY 46 (F) (Lord Weinstock) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 (gr c Green Desert - City Fortress) (Pale blue, white and yellow check cap)	W Carson	92
403	(9)	1-12241	DUSHYANTOR 25 (F,G) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0 (b c Sadler's Wells - Slightly Dangerous) (Green, pink sash and cap, white sleeves)	Pat Eddery	●
404	(7)	411	FLYING LEGEND 22 (F,S) (J Browne) H Cecil 9-0 (b c Alleged - L'Extravagante) (Royal blue, grey sash and star on cap)	W Ryan	80
405	(11)	0411	GORDI 87 (F,G) (A Paulson) D Weld (Ire) 9-0 (ch c Theatrical - Royal Alydar) (White, red epaulets, blue sleeves, white stars, red and blue cap)	K Fallon	90
406	(12)	4-61201	HERON ISLAND 29 (C,F,G,S) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9-0 (b c Shirley Heights - Dalawara) (Green, blue sleeves, white cap, green spots)	J Reid	95
407	(5)	113-342	MONS 25 (F,G) (Mr E Vestey) L Cumani 9-0 (b c Deploy - Morina) (Crimson, white sleeves, gold cap, crimson hoop)	O Urbina	98
408	(3)	114641	SAMRAAN 9 (D,F,G,S) (K Al-Mudhaf) J Dunlop 9-0 (br c Green Dancer - Sedra) (Blue, blue and white diabolo on sleeves, blue cap, white star)	J Carroll	94
409	(10)	213321	SHANTOU 21 (S) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0 (b c Alleged - Shaima) (Maroon, white sleeves, maroon cap, white star)	L Dettori	92
410	(6)	2101	SHARAF KABEER 21 (D,F,G) (A Al Maktoum) S bin Suroor 9-0 (ch c Machiavellian - Sharoog) (Yellow, black epaulets)	T Quinn	87
411	(8)	1-22301	ST MAWES 46 (B,F) (Lord Swaythling) J Dunlop 9-0 (ch c Shahrastani - Exemina) (Scarlet, white sash, black and white hooped cap)	K Darley	94
412	(1)	422412	WILAWANDER 25 (D,S) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9-0 (ch c Nashwan - Wilayif) (Royal blue, white chevron, light blue cap)	R Hills	88

BETTING: 3-1 Dushyantor, 7-2 Mons, 4-1 Gordi, 6-1 Sharaf Kabeer, 8-1 Shantou, 10-1 St Mawes, Heron Island, 12-1 others

1995: CLASSIC CLICHE 9-0 L Dettori (100-30) S bin Suroor 10 ran

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: NAGNAGNAG (4.45 Doncaster)

Next best: Dushyantor (3.40 Doncaster)

MARTIN LYNCH

Dushyantor, right, getting the better of Mons by half a length in the Great Voltigeur Stakes at York

COMPREHENSIVE FORM GUIDE TO THE 12 ST LEGER CONTENDERS

CLERKENWELL

Aug 21, York, good (7-11) beat Beauchamp Jade (8-6) ¾l (1m 6f, hcap, £94,745, 21 ran)

Jul 5, Sandown, good (8-11) beat Warning Reef (8-11) 6l (1m 6f, mdn, £3,583, 11 ran)

Jun 19, Ascot, good to firm see Gordi.

DESERT BOY

Jul 30, Goodwood, good to firm see St Mawes.

Jul 14, Saint-Cloud, good, (8-11) beat Radevore (8-11) ½, subsequently disqualified and placed third (1m 2l, group II, £39,526, 7 ran)

Jun 21, Ascot, good to firm: (8-8) ½l 2nd to Amfortas (8-8) with Shantou (8-8) neck 3rd

DUSHYANTOR

Aug 20, York, good (8-9) beat Mons (8-9) ½l (1m 4f, group II £48,451, 6 ran)

Jun 30, Curragh, good: (9-0) 12¾l 4th to Zagreb (9-0) with Sharaf Kabeer (9-0) 11¼l 11th (1m 4f, group I, £341,850, 13 ran).

Jun 8, Epsom, good, (9-0) 1¼l 2nd to Shaamit (9-0) with Shantou (9-0) 1¼l 3rd and St Mawes (9-0) 11l 17th (1m 4f, group I, £523,100, 20 ran)

FLYING LEGEND

Aug 23, Newmarket, good to soft, (8-8) beat Tudor Island (9-2) 5l (1m 7l, hcap, £5,900, 7 ran).

Jun 20, Ripon, good to firm (8-10) beat Random Kindness (8-10) 4l (1m 4f 60yd, mdn, £3,583, 8 ran)

GORDI

Jun 19, Ascot, good to firm (8-11) beat Athenry (8-11) 1l, with Wilawander (8-11) about ½l 4th and Clerkenwell (8-11) 4½l 7th (2m, group III, £32,150, 14 ran)

May 22, Leopardstown, good (9-0) beat Samakaan (9-0) 2l (1m 2l, mdn, £4,110, 12 ran)

May 6, Navan, good to yielding, (9-0) 4½l 4th to Power Play (9-0) (1m 2l, cond stks, £3,425, 9 ran).

HERON ISLAND

Aug 16, Newbury good (8-9) beat Minds Music (9-3) 1¼l (1m 4l, cond stks, £4,844, 6 ran)

May 26, Capannelle, good to firm (9-2) 13l 11th to Bahamian Knight (9-2) (1m 4l, group I, £209,536, 15 ran)

MONS

Aug 20, York, good see Dushyantor.

Jul 30, Goodwood, good to firm see St Mawes.

Apr 27, Sandown, good (9-0) neck and 6l 3rd to Santillana (8-10) (1m 2l, group III, £42,564, 9 ran)

SAMRAAN

Sep 5, Salisbury, firm: (9-1) beat Haleakala (8-4) ½l (1m 6l, cond stks, £5,220, 4 ran).

Aug 17, Newbury, good: (8-6) 4l 4th to Phantom Gold (9-3) (1m 5f 61yd, group II, £42,824, 7 ran).

Jul 30, Goodwood, good to firm see St Mawes.

Jul 6, Haydock, good see Shantou.

SHANTOU

Aug 24, Windsor, soft (8-7) beat Double Leaf (8-6) 3½l (1m 3l 135yd, cond stks, £4,791, 6 ran)

Jul 6, Haydock, good (8-10) 3½l 2nd to Royal Court (8-10) with Samraan (8-10) 2½l 4th (1m 4l, listed, £12,445, 5 ran)

Jun 21, Ascot, good to firm see Desert Boy.

Jun 8, Epsom, good, see Dushyantor.

SHARAF KABEER

Aug 24, Goodwood, good (8-11) beat Masehaab (8-11) 2½l (1m 6f, listed, £12,560, 7 ran)

Jun 30, Curragh, good see Dushyantor.

ST MAWES

Jul 30, Goodwood, good to firm: (8-10) beat Chief Contender (8-10) a head, with Mons (8-10) ¾l 4th, Samraan (8-10) 4l 6th and Desert Boy (8-10) ½l 7th (1m 4l, group III, £22,792, 12 ran)

Jun 8, Epsom, good see Dushyantor.

WILAWANDER

Aug 20, York, good, (9-7) ¾l 2nd to Yom Jameel (9-7) (1m 6l, hcap, £16,657, 10 ran).

Jul 24, Catterick, good to soft, (8-7) beat Belmanta (8-2) 9l (1m 6l, mdn, £3,883, 6 ran).

Jun 19, Ascot, good to firm see Gordi.

Selection: DUSHYANTOR (nap)

DONCASTER

THUNDERER

2.00 Young Bigwig	3.40 Gordi
2.30 Royal Ceilidh	4.15 SKILLINGTON (nap)
3.05 Compton Place	4.45 Hal's Pal
	5.15 Keen To Please

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.05 **COMPTON PLACE.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.05 Deep Finesse. 3.40 **DUSHYANTOR** (nap).

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE SIS

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

2.00 EAST COAST CONDITIONS STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,918: 6f) (9 runners)

101	(1)	1152	NIGRASINE 11 (D,F) (M Gleeson) J Eyre 9-7	D McKeown	92
102	(4)	212241	MAGICAL TIMES 21 (D,F,G) (Ms L Bell) R Boss 9-1	K Fallon	●
103	(7)	631	TOMBA 19 (D,G) (J Good) B Meehan 9-1	M Tebbutt	80
104	(9)	13	MUNKIN 28 (D,BF,F) (H Al Maktoum) T Thomson Jones 8-13	W Carson	80
105	(3)	113124	BOLD AFRICAN 10 (B,F) (D Maloney) P Evans 8-11	A Culhane	88
106	(6)	521104	OSOMENTAL 14 (B,F,G) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 8-11	A Mackay	96
107	(2)	122215	YOUNG BIGWIG 19 (D,F,G) (W Milner) J Berry 8-11	J Carroll	98
108	(5)	1	CAERFILLY DANCER 43 (D,F) (Femray Ltd) R Akehurst 8-10	T Quinn	81
109	(8)		FARHAN (H Al Maktoum) P Walwyn 8-8	R Hills	—

BETTING: 3-1 Caerfilly Dancer, 4-1 Young Bigwig, 9-2 Nigrasine, 5-1 Magical Times, 7-1 Farhan, 8-1 Osomental, Tomba, 10-1 others.

1995: KING OF THE EAST 8-11 W R Swinburn (9-2) M Stoute 8 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
S bin Suroor	3	8	37.5	S Sanders	6	31	19.4
H Cecil	26	95	27.4	W R Swinburn	25	137	18.2
J Gosden	33	148	22.3	Pat Eddery	37	204	18.1
M Stoute	20	103	19.4	R Hills	13	77	16.9
B Hills	28	145	19.3	L Dettori	30	188	16.0
D Haydn Jones	4	21	19.0	W Ryan	22	154	14.3

2.30 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES SEMI-FINAL

(Handicap: £19,950: 1m rnd) (25 runners)

201	(11)	242500	BAND ON THE RUN 14 (CD,F,G,S) (D Allen) B McMahon 9-10-0	T Quinn	98
202	(6)	220560	TERTIUM 23 (D,F) (W Smith) M Wane 4-9-11	J Carroll	96
203	(19)	3-03000	GYMCRAK PREMIERE 14 (V,D,F,G,S) (Gymcrak RC) G Holmes 8-9-10	D McKeown	90
204	(22)	020010	QUEENS CONSUL 15 (D,F,G) (Miss H Dawson) B Rothwell 6-9-7	D Harrison	96
205	(5)	226125	MASTER CHARTER 27 (C,D,F,G) (J Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-7	J Fortune	91
206	(15)	122025	SANDMOOR CHAMBRAY 18 (C,F,G) (Sandmoor Textiles) T Easterby 5-9-6	M Birch	96
207	(16)	531410	MAPLE BAY 7 (D,G,S) (R Matthews) A Bailey 7-9-5	G Faulkner (5)	95
208	(13)	042133	REBEL COUNTY 9 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Show Time Ice Cream) A Bailey 3-8-13	D Biggs	92
209	(17)	201400	MOUNTGATE 10 (D,F,G) (J Coupland) M Bell 4-8-13	D R McCabe	96
210	(8)	121122	HAWKSLEY HILL 27 (D,F,G) (H Alexander) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-13	K Fallon	94
211	(18)	342134	SCARABEN 33J (D,F,G,S) (J Tennant) S Kettlewell 8-8-11	J Stack	95
212	(7)	136232	ROYAL CEILIDH 10 (D,F,G) (Carlton Appointments Ltd) Denys Smith 3-8-11	J Reid	●
213	(2)	115032	BOLLIN FRANK 19 (D,F,S) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 4-8-9	L Charnock	93
214	(24)	303640	FLYING NORTH 11 (F) (G Meredith) Mrs M Reveley 3-8-8	K Darley	93
215	(1)	016336	SOMERTON BOY 14 (D,F,G) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 6-8-8	W Ryan	95
216	(12)	144410	HIGH PREMIUM 14 (CD,F,G) (J Parsons) R Fahey 8-8-6	A Culhane	90
217	(10)	315320	WINSTON 41 (D,F,G) (J Galvanoni) J Bethell 3-8-5	S Drowne	95
218	(3)	050602	PRIDE OF PENDLE 7 (D,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) D Nicholls 7-8-4	Alex Greaves	98
219	(25)	100000	RAMBO WALTZER 11 (D,F,G,S) (Keystone RC) D Nicholls 4-8-2	Jo Hunnam (7)	92
220	(20)	310240	MBULWA 10 (D,F,G,S) (Northumbria Leisure Ltd) R Fahey 10-8-1	Dale Gibson	90
221	(23)	501513	IMPULSIVE AIR 26 (D,BF,F,G) (T Scothern) E Weymes 4-8-1	J Quinn	96
222	(14)	00-0161	GLADYS ALTHORPE 17 (D,F,G) (T Ely) J Eyre 3-8-0	N Varley (3)	95
223	(21)	00-0000	ELPIDOS 14 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Winter) M Hammond 4-7-12	—	95
224	(4)	163604	ANONYM 7 (B,C,D,F,G) (Wetherby Racing Bureau) D Nicholls 4-7-10	J Bramhill (7)	96
225	(9)	110360	HAWWAM 28 (D,F,G,S) (NW Racing Club) E Alston 10-7-10	J Lowe	92

BETTING: 7-1 Hawksley Hill, 8-1 Pride Of Pendle, 10-1 Bollin Frank, Gladys Althorpe, Royal Ceilidh, 12-1 others.

1995: BAND ON THE RUN 8-9-13 L Dettori (10-1) B McMahon 18 ran

3.05 POLYPIPE PLC FLYING CHILDERS STAKES

C4

(Group II: 2-Y-O: £26,000: 5f) (7 runners)

301	(3)	13113	DEEP FINESSE 43 (D,F,G,S) (J Sims) M Jarvis 9-3	Pat Eddery	88
302	(1)	1114	EASYCALL 24 (D,F,G) (Easycall Ptnrs) B Meehan 9-3	M Tebbutt	91
303	(7)	1212	COMPTON PLACE 24 (D,F) (Duke of Devonshire) J Toller 8-12	S Sanders	●
304	(2)	421015	FREDRIK THE FIERCE 24 (V,D,F) (C Deuters) J Berry 8-12	K Darley	84
305	(4)	411	JANIB 24 (D,F,G) (H Al Maktoum) H Thomson Jones 8-12	R Hills	87
306	(6)	23	NEVADA 56 (V,D,F) (Mrs J Ryan) A O'Brien (Ire) 8-12	K Fallon	80
307	(5)	513112	HEAD OVER HEELS 25 (D,F,G) (Ms R Hood) J Gosden 8-7	L Dettori	92

BETTING: 11-4 Head Over Heels, 3-1 Compton Place, 4-1 Janib, 6-1 Deep Finesse, 7-1 Easycall, 8-1 others

1995: CAYMAN KAI 8-12 Pat Eddery (7-1) R Hannon 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

DEEP FINESSE beat Nombre Premier ¾l in 5-runner group III Prix du Bois at Longchamp (5f, soft) on penultimate start. COMPTON PLACE ½l 2nd of 9 to Abou Zouz in group II Scottish Equitable Gimcrack Stakes at York (6f, good) with EASYCALL 4¾l 4th. JANIB beat Tipsy Creek 1¼l in listed race at York (5f, good) with FREDRIK THE FIERCE 4l 5th. HEAD OVER HEELS ½l 2nd of 6 to Clever Caption in listed race at Deauville (5f, good)

Selection: COMPTON PLACE

3.40 PERTEMPS ST LEGER STAKES

C4

(Group I: 3-Y-O: £174,688: 1m 6f 132yd) (12 runners)

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE ABOVE

4.15 LADBROKE HANDICAP

C4

(£15,692: 1m 2f 60yd) (18 runners)

501	(6)	200105	MOVING ARROW 19 (D,F,G) (G Westgarth) Miss S Hall 5-10-0	J Reid	92
502	(18)	023211	CELESTIAL CHOIR 23 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs C Sykes) J Eyre 6-9-10	O Pears (3)	92
503	(7)	006111	NINIA 3 (D,F,G) (Mrs D Schreiber) M Johnston 4-9-9 (5ex)	R Hills	●
504	(17)	220600	BILLY BUSHWACKER 24 (C,F,G,S) (T Child) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-7	A Culhane	94
505	(9)	010001	GOLD DISC 15 (D,F,G,S) (K Abdulla) B Hills 3-9-3	Pat Eddery	91
506	(2)	012050	SKILLINGTON 23 (D,F) (G Strawbridge) I Balding 3-9-1	L Dettori	95
507	(11)	124633	CLIFTON FOX 14 (F,G,S) (P and S Partnership) J Glover 4-9-1	D Harrison	98
508	(15)	303112	ANGUS-G 14 (D,F) (W Gerzel) Mrs M Reveley 4-8-12	K Darley	98
509	(14)	2-51340	KINGS ASSEMBLY 21 (D,F,G,S) (The Everhopefuls I) P Harris 4-8-12	G Hind	90
510	(1)	140030	SERENDIPITY 20 (D,F) (J Darby) J Dunlop 3-8-10	T Quinn	92
511	(16)	680320	NIGEL'S LAD 7 (D,BF,F,G) (N Dunnington) P Haslam 4-8-7	J Fortune	94
512	(10)	160/0-00	DESERT FIGHTER 7 (D,F,G) (A Frame) Mrs M Reveley 5-8-3	L Charnock	88
513	(5)	020221	MENTALASANYTHIN 26 (D,F,G,S) (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 7-8-3	A Mackay	89
514	(12)	645060	MASTER BEVELED 10 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs E Williams) P Evans 6-8-2	R Ffrench (7)	92
515	(13)	5/10-34	OBELOS 137 (D,BF,F) (Lord Howard de Walden) Mrs J Cecil 5-8-2	G Bardwell	90
516	(4)	14-0544	SAMIM 118 (B,BF,G) (R Redmile) S Gollings 3-8-1	S Sanders	89
517	(3)	320200	FAHS 14 (G) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) R Akehurst 4-8-1	—	92
518	(8)	061	TRICK 23 (D,F) (Lady Halifax) L Cumani 3-7-13	J Quinn	88

BETTING: 5-1 Ninia, 11-2 Angus-G, 8-1 Trick, 9-1 Clifton Fox, 10-1 Billy Bushwacker, Gold Disc, 12-1 Celestial Choir, 14-1 Serendipity, Skillington, 16-1 Fahs, Moving Arrow, Nigel's Lad, 20-1 Master Beveled, Mentalasanythin, Obelos, 25-1 Kings Assembly, 33-1 Samim, 50-1 Desert Fighter

1995: SUE'S ARTISTE 4-9-2 D Holland (16-1) B Hills 25 ran

FORM FOCUS

MOVING ARROW 12¾l 5th of 7 to Almond Rock in handicap at Ripon (1m, good to soft). BILLY BUSHWACKER 8l 12th of 16 to Amrak Ajeeb in handicap at York (1m 2f 85yd, good). CELESTIAL CHOIR completed double, beat Sheer Danzig 1¾l in a 22-runner handicap at York (1m 4f, good to firm) with SKILLINGTON (8lb better off) 21¾l 19th. NINIA completed treble, beat Clan Ben 6l in an 11-runner handicap at Epsom (1m 2f, good to firm). Previously beat ANGUS-G (6lb better off) ½l in a 20-runner handicap at Sandown (1m 2f, good) with CLIFTON FOX (7lb better off) ½l 3rd and FAHS (10lb better off) 13l 9th. GOLD DISC beat Dalra 1½l in a 9-runner handicap at Chester (1m 2f 75yd, good to soft).

KINGS ASSEMBLY best effort, beat Harvey White 1½l in a 13-runner handicap at Nottingham (1m 2f, good to firm) Apr 30, with OBELOS (3lb better off) neck and head 4th. SERENDIPITY 1¼l and neck 3rd of 17 to Autumn Cover in a handicap at Goodwood (1m, good to firm) on penultimate start. DESERT FIGHTER 13¾l 13th of 19 to Far Ahead in handicap at Thirsk (1m 4f, good to firm). MASTER BEVELED 10¾l 11th of 23 to Seventeens Lucky in handicap at York (7f, 202yd, good to firm). NIGEL'S LAD neck 2nd of 13 to Sugar Mill in a handicap at Ripon (1m 4f 60yd, soft) on penultimate start. SAMIM 9½l 4th of 8 to Exactly in handicap at Ripon (1m 4f 60yd, good). MENTALASANYTHIN beat Lord Advocate 2½l in an 8-runner handicap at Hamilton (1m 4f, good to firm). TRICK beat Polar Champ short-head in an 8-runner maiden at Yarmouth (1m 2f, good to firm)

Selection: ANGUS-G

4.45 PORCELANOSA RATED HANDICAP

C4

(£13,558: 1m str) (11 runners)

601	(8)	501104	BLOMBERG 28 (C,D,F,G,S) (Comet Group Plc) J Fanshawe 4-9-7	D Harrison	97
602	(7)	1-12200	HI NOD 23 (C,F,G) (B Nordan) M Camacho 6-9-4	L Charnock	94
603	(9)	030014	MARALINGA 9 (F,G) (D & Mrs J Oliver) Lady Herries 4-9-4	Declan O'Shea	93
604	(1)	2202-30	DECORATED HERO 141 (CD,F,G) (H Allen) J Gosden 4-9-4	L Dettori	95
605	(10)	5-00355	NAGNAGNAG 23 (F,G,S) (Sir Clement Freud) S Dow 4-8-12	T Quinn	97
606	(6)	13-510	JARAH 49 (CD,F) (H Al Maktoum) S bin Suroor 3-8-11	R Hills	90
607	(3)	000050	BEAUCHAMP JAZZ 23 (V,D,F,S) (E Penser) J Dunlop 4-8-10	J Reid	97
608	(11)	421114	SALEEMAH 19 (D,BF,F) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-8	W Carson	93
609	(2)	411410	MY GALLERY 7 (D,BF,F,G,S) (R Cox) A Bailey 5-8-7	D Wright (3)	98
610	(4)	520400	APRIL THE EIGHTH 10 (F) (M Siu) B Hills 3-8-4	J Carroll	96
611	(5)	42-2011	HAL'S PAL 28 (B,G) (W Said) D Loder 3-8-2	Pat Eddery	●

BETTING: 4-1 Hal's Pal, 5-1 Nagnagnag, Saleemah, 8-1 Beauchamp Jazz, Decorated Hero, Maralinga, 10-1 others.

1995: AKIL 3-8-2 W Carson (6-1) R Armstrong 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

BLOMBERG 4¾l 4th to Idris in group III Desmond Stakes at the Curragh (1m, good to firm). HI NOD ½l 2nd to Green Perfume in conditions race at York (1m, good). MARALINGA 4¾l 4th to Even Top in listed race at York (1m 1f, good). DECORATED HERO 3¼l 3rd to Welton Arsenal in conditions race at Warwick (7f, good) on penultimate start. NAGNAGNAG 2¼l 5th to Concer Un in handicap at York (1m, good to firm) with BEAUCHAMP JAZZ (1lb better off) 2¾l 7th and HI NOD (1lb better off) 3l 9th. JARAH ½l 2nd (promoted to 1st) to Aunty Jane (placed last) in conditions race over course and distance (good to firm) on penultimate start. SALEEMAH beat Almond Rock ½l in handicap at Salisbury (1m, good to firm). MY GALLERY beat Jo Mell 1¾l in handicap at Chester (7f 122yd, good to soft) on penultimate start. HAL'S PAL beat Serious Sensation 3½l in handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 1m 1f 100yd)

Selection: HAL'S PAL

5.15 BATTLE OF BRITAIN NURSERY HANDICAP

(2-Y-O: £5,010: 6f) (16 runners)

1	(4)	325	MANTLES PRINCE 99 (D Barker) G Lewis 9-7	Pat Eddery	87
2	(12)	415451	I CAN'T REMEMBER 14 (D,F,S) (P Graham Racing) P Evans 9-4	D Wright (3)	90
3	(2)	0201	SHARP HAT 19 (D,G) (J Smith) R Hannon 9-4	L Dettori	90
4	(1)	321040	BOLLERO 14 (D,G) (I Bolland) J Berry 9-1	P Fessey (5)	87
5	(9)	406033	PETITE DANSEUSE 24 (F,G) (Mrs A Upsdell) S Dow 9-1	A Daly (5)	94
6	(13)	4410	CHEROKEE FLIGHT 25 (F) (P Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 9-0	K Fallon	90
7	(10)	021365	PLAN FOR PROFIT 21 (F) (Professional Racing Ptnrs) M Johnston 9-0	J Reid	92
8	(14)	31614	MASTERSTROKE 43 (D,F) (N Attenborough) B Meehan 9-0	M Tebbutt	87
9	(7)	314551	LUNAR MUSIC 16 (F) (Mrs P Barratt) M Meade 9-0	D Sweeney (7)	●
10	(15)	522	UNKNOWN TERRITORY 19 (Mrs R Hague) Ronald Thompson 8-9	J Quinn	93
11	(5)	550	CAIRN DHU 33 (R Thorburn) Mrs J Ramsden 8-5	S Sanders	—
12	(11)	001	IMPERIAL GARDEN 14 (G) (K Williamson) P Haslam 8-5	S Drowne	90
13	(3)	03304	IN GOOD NICK 11 (B) (Mrs J Turpin) M W Easterby 8-3	Dale Gibson	92
14	(16)	331	KEEN TO PLEASE 19 (G) (Carlton Appointments Ltd) Denys Smith 8-3	W Carson	92
15	(8)	306645	THE FOUR ISLES 26 (H O'Donnell) D Haydn Jones 8-2	A Mackay	90
16	(6)	544401	LITTLE BLUE 35 (D,F) (Ryedale Associates) T Easterby 8-1	J Lowe	89

BETTING: 6-1 Sharp Hat, 7-1 I Can't Remember, Lunar Music, 8-1 Keen To Please, Masterstroke, 10-1 others

1995: SOME HORSE 9-5 R Hughes (15-2) M Meagher 17 ran

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PERTEMPS ST.LEGER

1 mile 6 furlongs, Doncaster 3.40pm, Live on CH4 TV.

11/4	Dushyantor	10/1	Heron Island
4/1	Mons	14/1	Clerkenwell
9/2	Gordi	20/1	Flying Legend
8/1	Shantou	20/1	Wilawander
8/1	Sharaf Kabeer	50/1	Samraan
8/1	St Mawes	66/1	Desert Boy

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1,2,3. Prices subject to fluctuation Available up to First Show. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner - no bet.

WILLIAM HILL SPRINT H/CAP

6 furlongs, Goodwood 3.20pm, Live on BBC TV.

9/1	Golden Pound	16/1	Moon Strike
9/1	Grand Chapeau	16/1	No Extras
9/1	Oggi	16/1	Ortolan
11/1	Clan Chief	20/1	Bayin
12/1	Bee Health Boy	20/1	Lennox Lewis
14/1	Castlerea Lad	20/1	Pride of Hayling
14/1	Portend	20/1	So Intrepid
14/1	Squire Corrie	25/1	Indian Relative
16/1	Almasi	25/1	Scissor Ridge
16/1	Kildee Lad	25/1	Youdontsay
16/1	Montserrat	33/1	Go Hever Golf

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Prices subject to fluctuation. Available up to 3.05pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(c) may apply. Non runner – no bet.

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GOODWOOD

THUNDERER

2.15 Tarawa	3.55 Blaze Away
2.45 Singspiel	4.30 Mardi Gras
3.20 Castlerea Lad	5.00 Opalette
	5.30 Embankment

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 5.30 Serious Sensation.

GOING: GOOD (STRAIGHT COURSE), GOOD TO FIRM (ROUND)

DRAW: 6F-1M, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 FOOD BROKERS RATED HANDICAP

BBC1

(£9,925: 7f) (9 runners)

1	(2)	60010-5	CELESTIAL KEY 9 (D,F,G) (M Broderick) M Johnston 6-9-7	B Doyle	90
2	(1)	3-11406	TARAWA 76 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Callaghan) N Callaghan 4-9-6	C Asmussen	92
3	(9)	101412	LAW COMMISSION 21 (D,F) (R Tooth) D Elsworth 6-8-11	R Cochrane	●
4	(5)	522602	MY BEST VALENTINE 15 (D,F,G) (The Valentines) J White 6-8-10	A Whelan (3)	98
5	(8)	010566	PLEASE SUZANNE 41 (D,F) (Mohamed Suhail) R Hannon 3-8-10	Dane O'Neill	92
6	(6)	413-430	STAR OF ZILZAL 24 (D,F,G) (Maria Al Maktoum) M Stoute 4-8-9	A Clark	95
7	(4)	512-464	RESOUNDER 19 (F,G) (H Allen) J Gosden 3-8-8	A McGlone	94
8	(3)	511400	ALMUHIMM 35 (D,BF,F) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) E Dunlop 4-8-7	G Duffield	93
9	(7)	221	GRAND MUSICA 19 (D,G) (Mach 3 Racing) I Balding 3-8-2	Martin Dwyer (5)	93

Long handicap: Almuhimm 8-5 Grand Musica 8-0

BETTING: 5-2 My Best Valentine, 4-1 Celestial Key, 9-2 Grand Musica, 5-1 Law Commission, 11-2 Tarawa, 10-1 Star Of Zilzal, Resounder, 12-1 others

1995: INDIAN FLY 4-8-13 Dane O'Neill (11-4 fav) R Hannon 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

CELESTIAL KEY 5¼l 5th of 9 to Even Top in listed race at York (1m 1f, good) on penultimate start. TARAWA 5¾l 4th of 13 to First Island in listed handicap at York (1m good to firm) May 95. LAW COMMISSION 3l 2nd of 8 to Ahi in handicap over course and distance (good). MY BEST VALENTINE short-head 2nd of 14 to Concer Un in handicap at Chester (7f, good to soft). STAR OF ZILZAL 6¼l 3rd of 4 to Wizard King in conditions race at Chester (7f, good to firm). GRAND MUSICA beat Hannalou 2½l in maiden at Epsom (7f, good)

Selection: LAW COMMISSION

2.45 WESTMINSTER TAXI INSURANCE SELECT STAKES

BBC1

(Group III: £23,590: 1m 2f) (4 runners)

1	(2)	221-122	SINGSPIEL 67 (D,G,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) M Stoute 4-9-5	C Asmussen	98
2	(1)	11664	FARASAN 25 (D,F,G) (Prince A A Faisal) H Cecil 3-8-7	G Duffield	97
3	(4)	1-11254	PRIZE GIVING 62 (D,F,G) (Lady Oppenheimer) G Wragg 3-8-7	A Clark	95
4	(3)	21014	WALL STREET 30 (D,F) (Godolphin) Saeed bin Suroor 3-8-7	R Cochrane	●

BETTING: 5-4 Singspiel, 11-4 Farasan, 7-2 Wall Street, 4-1 Prize Giving

1995: TRIARIUS 5-9-5 G Carter (7-4 fav) Saeed bin Suroor 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

SINGSPIEL 1¼l 2nd of 8 to Pentire in group II Prince Of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket (1m 2f, good). FARASAN 3¼l 4th of 6 to Dushyantor in group II Great Voltigeur Stakes at York (1m 4f, good). PRIZE GIVING best effort ½l 2nd of 9 to Don Micheletto in listed race over course and distance (good), May 95. WALL STREET about 1l 4th of 9 to Sasuru in group II Prix Guillaume d'Ornano at Deauville (1m 2f, good)

Selection: WALL STREET

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Fontwell Park (first race, 2.15), Nottingham (2.00)

TUESDAY: Sandown Park (2.15), Yarmouth (2.35)

WEDNESDAY: Beverley (2.10), Sandown Park (2.15), Yarmouth (2.00)

THURSDAY: Ayr (C4, 2.10), Lingfield Park (turf and AW, 2.20), Yarmouth (2.30)

FRIDAY: Ayr (C4, 2.00), Huntingdon (2.20), Newbury (BBC, 2.10)

SATURDAY: Ayr (C4, 1.55), Catterick (1.40), Catterick Bridge (2.20), Market Rasen (2.10), Newbury (BBC, 1.40), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00)

Flat meetings in bold

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing; J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating

3.20 WILLIAM HILL SPRINT CUP HANDICAP

BBC1

(£14,915: 6f) (22 runners)

1	(6)	266030	PORTEND 14 (B,D,G,S) (D Bowring) S Bowring 4-10-0	S D Williams	96
2	(11)	315230	GOLDEN POUND 25 (D,F) (A Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 4-9-8	R Cochrane	95
3	(14)	401020	YOUDONTSAY 3 (C,D,F) (T Nicholls) T Naughton 4-9-7	J D Smith (5)	96
4	(3)	441142	KILDEE LAD 20 (C,D,F,G) (J O'Donovan) A Jones 6-9-5	B Doyle	97
5	(12)	30-0000	NO EXTRAS 21 (CD,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 6-9-5	S Whitworth	98
6	(4)	511060	SO INTREPID 40 (D,F,G,S) (E Hayward) J Bradley 6-9-4	T Williams	98
7	(15)	510216	MOON STRIKE 9 (D,F,G,S) (A Foustok) H Akbary 6-9-4	R Havlin (3)	97
8	(21)	00-0000	GO HEVER GOLF 37 (D,F,G) (Hever Racing Club II) T Naughton 4-9-3	A McGlone	96
9	(1)	101112	ORTOLAN 23 (CD,BF,F,S) (J Lazzari) R Hannon 3-9-2	Dane O'Neill	96
10	(8)	350614	MONTSERRAT 78 (V,CD,G,S) (Mrs A Yearley) L Cottrell 4-9-1	C Asmussen	92
11	(2)	221112	CLAN CHIEF 24 (C,BF,F) (P Lowe) J Arnold 3-9-1	A Clark	98
12	(9)	500000	LENNOX LEWIS 21 (CD,F) (Mrs A Jarvis) A Jarvis 4-9-0	J Tate	●
13	(19)	321400	BAYIN 20 (D,F,G,S) (T Barker) M Usher 7-8-12	R Street	95
14	(10)	311025	INDIAN RELATIVE 22 (D,F) (Vijay Mallya) R Guest 3-8-12	D Griffiths (5)	92
15	(20)	300004	CASTLEREA LAD 7 (CD,F,G) (Mrs T Graham) R Hollinshead 7-8-11	F Lynch (3)	96
16	(16)	134203	ALMASI 22 (D,F,G) (The Equema Partnership) C Wall 4-8-7	P Clarke (7)	96
17	(7)	015121	BEE HEALTH BOY 22 (D,F,S) (Bee Health Ltd) M W Easterby 3-8-6	G Parkin (5)	95
18	(22)	152311	SQUIRE CORRIE 9 (B,F,G) (G Harwood) G Harwood 4-8-4	Gaye Harwood (7)	95
19	(18)	0-00001	OGGI 7 (D,F,G) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 5-8-3	G Duffield	97
20	(5)	331316	PRIDE OF HAYLING 11 (CD,F) (B Broomfield) P Hedger 5-8-0	J Fanning	97
21	(17)	0-60001	GRAND CHAPEAU 11 (D,F,G) (V Greaves) D Nicholls 4-7-13	M Henry (3)	97
22	(13)	320222	SCISSOR RIDGE 25 (CD,G) (D Smith) J Bridger 4-7-10	R Mullen (7)	93

Long handicap: Scissor Ridge 7-8

BETTING: 8-1 Oggi, 10-1 Golden Pound, Grand Chapeau, 12-1 Bee Health Boy, Castlerea Lad, Kildee Lad, 14-1 Ortolan, Squire Corrie, 16-1 Almasi, Bayin, Go Hever Golf, No Extras, Portend, 20-1 others

1995: IKTAMAL 3-9-12 Pat Eddery (8-1 fav) E Dunlop 26 ran

FORM FOCUS

GOLDEN POUND best recent effort, head 2nd of 9 to Robellion in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to firm) with BAYIN (2lb better off) 2¾l 4th. MONTSERRAT beat Purple Fling ½l in 13-runner handicap over course and distance (good) on penultimate start with LENNOX LEWIS (17lb better off) 1¾l 5th and CASTLEREA LAD (16lb better off) 1l 7th. CLAN CHIEF 1¼l 2nd of 20 to Blue Iris in handicap at York (5f, good). BEE HEALTH BOY beat Don Pepe neck in 8-runner apprentice jockeys' handicap at Newmarket (6f, good to soft) with ALMASI (4lb better off) 1l 3rd and INDIAN RELATIVE (4lb better off) 2¾l 5th. SQUIRE CORRIE completed double, beat Mousehole short-head in 17-runner handicap at Salisbury (5f, firm) with MOON STRIKE (3lb better off) 3l 6th.

Selection: CLAN CHIEF

3.55 HIGHLAND SPRING/ROA HANDICAP

(£7,765: 2m) (13 runners)

1	(9)	000053	SALAMAN 29 (B,D,F,G) (Lady Cohen) J Dunlop 4-9-11	B Doyle	98
2	(12)	00-6361	IVOR'S FLUTTER 14 (G,S) (W Perry) D Elsworth 7-9-11	D Griffiths (5)	97
3	(10)	012-663	HARBOUR ISLAND 19 (B,S) (R Barnett) M Stoute 4-9-10	C Asmussen	97
4	(3)	03341-0	MEANT TO BE 176 (D,F,S) (Lady Mary Mumford) Lady Herries 6-9-8	P Doe (7)	90
5	(1)	06-3064	BLAZE AWAY 14 (D,F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-9-5	Martin Dwyer (5)	●
6	(6)	4-0454-0	POLO KIT 14 (G) (M Marchant) R O'Sullivan 5-8-11	G Duffield	91
7	(5)	631641	FRENCH IVY 20 (CD,F,G) (K Flood) F Murphy 9-8-10	R Cochrane	96
8	(4)	00002-1	MIROSWAKI 137J (G) (Mrs A Naughton) R Akehurst 6-8-8	Stephen Davies	90
9	(8)	101040-	INCHCAILLOCH 164J (F,G,S) (F Carter) J King 7-8-5	A Clark	95
10	(5)	230220	GREAT EASEBY 19 (R Bailey) W Storey 6-8-3	J Fanning	94
11	(7)	013512	CANDLE SMOKE 15 (D,F) (A Speelman) G Harwood 3-8-2	Gaye Harwood (7)	95
12	(13)	211420	SHIRLEY SUE 15 (D,BF,F,G) (Greenland Park Ltd) M Johnston 3-8-0	M Henry (3)	97
13	(11)	62-0012	LABEEQ 71 (BF,F) (A Spence) R Akehurst 3-8-0	A McGlone	95

BETTING: 3-1 Miroswaki, 9-2 Salaman, 5-1 Ivor's Flutter, 6-1 Harbour Island, 13-2 French Ivy, 7-1 Candle Smoke, Blaze Away, 10-1 others

1995: LEAR DANCER 4-9-0 G Duffield (14-1) P Mitchell 10 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Saeed bin Suroor	6	18	33.3	Dane O'Neill	12	67	17.9
E Dunlop	3	12	25.0	R Cochrane	24	165	14.5
M Stoute	20	91	22.0	G Duffield	6	49	12.2
G Wragg	9	42	21.4	M Henry	6	49	12.2
H Cecil	18	90	20.0	Only qualifiers			

4.30 ROYAL NAVY MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £4,620: 1m) (9 runners)

1	(8)		ALLIED ACADEMY (Allied Calibration Ltd) S Williams 9-0	J Tate	—
2	(5)	00	FROST KING 24 (P Reid Partnership) Miss B Sanders 9-0	A Whelan (3)	79
3	(1)		GRANDPA LEX (Maverick Productions Ltd) I Balding 9-0	R Cochrane	—
4	(2)		HIBERNATE (K Abdulla) R Charlton 9-0	A McGlone	—
5	(3)	0	HOME ALONE 42 (D Armitage) J Gosden 9-0	R Havlin (3)	—
6	(9)	5	MARDI GRAS 28 (D Crowson) J Dunlop 9-0	C Asmussen	●
7	(4)		SAND CAY (Mrs D Wright) R Hannon 9-0	Dane O'Neill	—
8	(7)		ZINGARO (Sheikh Marwan Al Maktoum) C Brittain 9-0	B Doyle	—
9	(6)		CADBURY CASTLE (D Brown) M Blanchard 8-9	A Clark	—

BETTING: 3-1 Mardi Gras, 7-2 Hibernate, Sand Cay, 4-1 Grandpa Lex, 7-1 Zingaro, 12-1 Allied Academy, Frost King, 14-1 others

1995: DREAMHILL 9-0 G Duffield (9-4 fav) P Harris 6 ran

5.00 CITY OF PORTSMOUTH MAIDEN STAKES

(3-Y-O: £4,620: 1m 2f) (12 runners)

1	(8)	6	INFATUATION 51 (Lady Katharine Phillips) Lady Herries 9-0	F Lynch (3)	81
2	(7)	0	LATIN QUARTER 21 (K Abdulla) R Charlton 9-0	B Doyle	86
3	(2)	503-520	PASTERNAK 44 (C Rock) M Prescott 9-0	G Duffield	95
4	(12)	0	PORLOCK CASTLE 31 (J Davey Beverton) K Burke 9-0	J Tate	—
5	(11)	0-6	PROSPERO 31 (Mrs G Scruton) G Harwood 9-0	C Asmussen	86
6	(4)		SACRED LOCH (A Christodoulou) G Harwood 9-0	A Clark	—
7	(10)	00	SOVEREIGN CREST 33 (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 9-0	N Adams	76
8	(1)	44	ITKAN 19 (H Al Maktoum) C Benstead 8-9	T Williams	78
9	(9)	00	LOCKET 26 (J Plumb) J Bennett 8-9	M Henry (3)	—
10	(3)	6-4	OPALETTE 26 (Angmering Park Stud) Lady Herries 8-9	R Cochrane	●
11	(5)	0	RAHEEFA 31 (H Al Maktoum) J Gosden 8-9	A McGlone	80
12	(6)	40	SILVRETTA 21 (Sir Stephen Hastings) A Stewart 8-9	S Whitworth	90

BETTING: 9-2 Pasternak, 5-1 Prospero, Sacred Loch, 6-1 Infatuation, 13-2 Opalette, 7-1 Latin Quarter, Silvretta, 8-1 others

1995: AKAYID 8-9 M Wigham (33-1) C Benstead 11 ran

5.30 BATTLE OF BRITAIN WESTHAMPNETT LIMITED STAKES

(Amateurs: £4,045: 7f) (17 runners)

1	(6)	300031	EMBANKMENT 7 (F,S) (Lady Tennant) R Hannon 6-10-11	C Vigors	●
2	(9)	160305	KINGCHIP BOY 101 (V,C,D,F,G) (Four Jays P'ship) M Ryan 7-10-11	S Laidlaw (5)	77
3	(16)	000000	SARUM 5 (D,F,G) (T Waters) J Long 10-10-11	T Waters (5)	63
4	(5)	001400	WINTER SCOUT 20 (F,G) (Mrs S Russell) C Brooks 8-10-11	Miss J Russell (5)	76
5	(2)	0-500	CULTURAL ICON 161J (Mrs P Mitchell) P Mitchell 4-10-9	M Jeffries (5)	—
6	(4)	066000-	JATO 350 (D,F,G) (Mrs M Southcott) S Williams 7-10-9	Mrs S Eddery (5)	93
7	(12)	006600	JUSTINIANUS 16 (D,G,S) (J Bridger) J Bridger 4-10-9	D Bridger (5)	65
8	(11)	665440	DELIGHT OF DAWN 14 (D,F,G) (R Stronge) 4-10-8	J Dewhurst (5)	87
9	(15)	50-3061	POLLY PECULIAR 30 (D,F,G,S) (Miss Marshall) B Smart 5-10-8	Miss V Marshall (5)	67
10	(7)	502125	SERIOUS SENSATION 22 (BF,G) (G Moore) M Prescott 3-10-7	P Scott	90
11	(14)	000506	TAUTEN 42 (V) (Ms M O'Sullivan) P Burgoyne 6-10-6	Miss M O'Sullivan (5)	59
12	(1)	215050	CARMARTHEN BAY 15 (G) (D Jones) G L Moore 3-10-5	K Goble	87
13	(17)	000	COLEBROOK WILLIE 19 (V) (Regal (Witney) Ltd) J Bosley 3-10-5	Mrs S Bosley	—
14	(8)	006000	INDIAN WOLF 32 (Mrs T Llewellyn) B Llewellyn 3-10-5	J L Llewellyn	—
15	(10)	03-010	SABAAH ELFULL 33 (F) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) A Stewart 3-10-4	V Lukaniuk (5)	52
16	(13)	0000-	MASBRO BIRD 373 (J Crook) T Jones 3-10-2	P Middleton (5)	—
17	(3)	456560	REEM FEVER 8 (B) (N Connor) D Arbuthnot 3-10-2	Mrs D Arbuthnot	—

BETTING: 4-1 Embankment, 9-2 Serious Sensation, 5-1 Sabaah Elfull, 6-1 Carmarthen Bay, Jato, 7-1 Polly Peculiar, 8-1 Reem Fever, 10-1 others

1995: KNOBBLEENEEZE 5-10-11 Miss J Winter (5-2 fav) M Channon 17 ran

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Bahhare strengthens classic case

By Julian Muscat

BAHHARE, who dominated his opponents on looks, strengthened his position as favourite for next season's 2,000 Guineas with a record-breaking victory in the Laurent-Perrier Champagne Stakes over seven furlongs at Doncaster yesterday.

The son of Woodman stalked a steady pace before taking control approaching the final furlong, quickening away from In Command by 3½ lengths. Once in front, he extended his advantage with every stride as Willie Carson furthered his education by driving him out to the line.

It was an impressive performance in almost every respect. The time, at 1min 23.21sec, lowered the juvenile course record by more than a second with the help of a following wind. "He was impressive," his trainer, John Dunlop, said. "He settled well in behind, and quickened nicely. It is always good when a horse comes out and wins a proper race."

Among bookmakers, William Hill gave Bahhare the biggest vote of confidence, quoting him at 5-1. Ladbrokes and Coral offer a point longer, but there was an element of uncertainty about Bahhare's true mettle, which arose when he was asked to quicken.

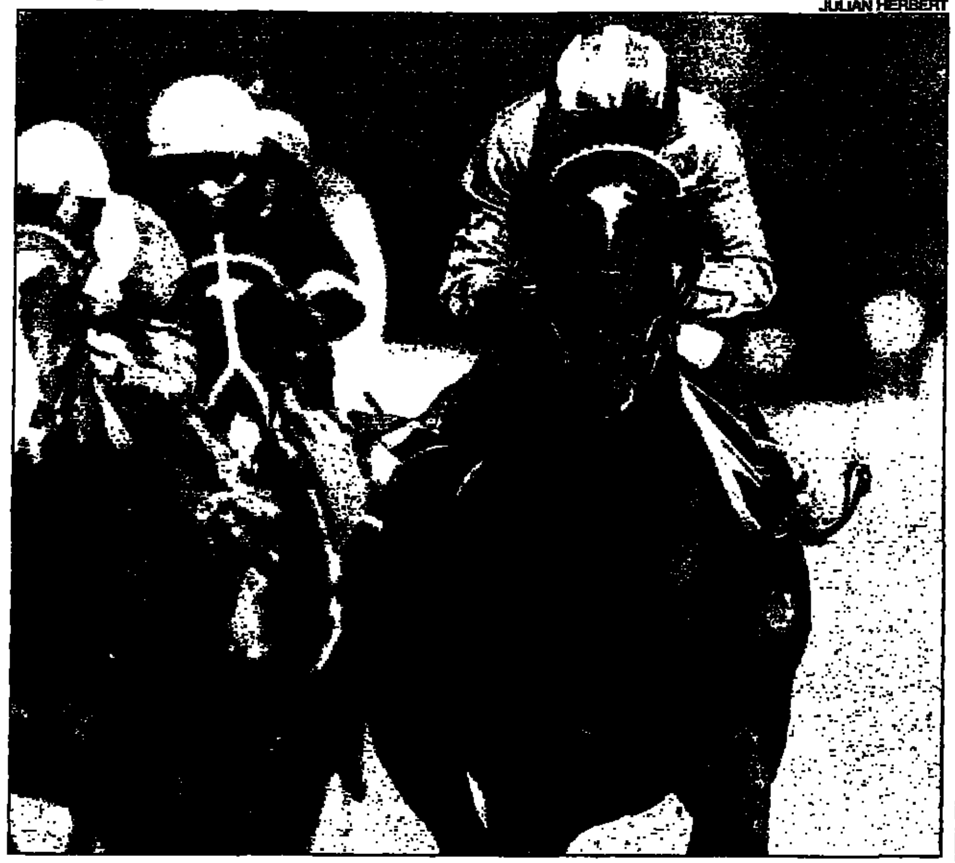
Bahhare momentarily wobbled when Carson picked him up. And he threatened to flash his tail — often a sign of temperament — with each stroke of Carson's whip. "I noticed it," Dunlop conceded. "It was the first time in his life he's been hit, and it came as a bit of a surprise. Willie said he is still a bit of a baby."

Given that he also played up before consenting to enter the stalls, the more prudent will wait for further racecourse evidence before fêting this unbeaten colt.

That is unlikely to come this term, as Dunlop intimated Bahhare's season has run its course. Interestingly, Bahhare's superiority over In Command was not quite as emphatic as that posted by Revoque at York last month.

Revoque, engaged in yesterday's test, was withdrawn on account of the fast ground, but his worth should be established, against Zamindar at Longchamp tomorrow. There is much to play for on the classic front.

JULIAN HERBERT



Bahhare speeds clear in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster yesterday

Wall Street is sound investment

GOODWOOD
BBC 1

.15: The absence of a confirmed front-runner could reduce this to more of a sprint, which entitles **My Best Valentine** to the vote. He returned to his best at Chester last time. Law Commission, another in top form, has claims for a place. Of the others, Tarawa reserves his best efforts for straight tracks while Resounder weakened on his sole outing over this trip.

2.45: Wall Street made the running when a respectable fourth in France last time but appears more effective when held up. This faster ground should help him and Farasan, who may oblige with the early pace. Singspiel is the class act but he has flattered to deceive in the past. Prize Giving, a winner first time up this season, cannot be discounted.

3.15: Oggi, who returned from reported muscular problems to win at Haydock, can follow up. Clan Chief, a model of consistency, has scaled the handicap and now tries this trip for the first time. He has prospects, along with Squire Corrie, Kildee Lad and Bee Health Boy.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Julian Muscat

DONCASTER
CHANNEL 4

3.05: Compton Place ran his best race when just beaten by Abou Zouz in the Gimcrack Stakes and a reproduction of that effort should suffice. Head Over Heels, just pipped in a listed race in Deauville last month, is a progressive filly but Deep Finesse could be a bigger threat judged on his good third behind Carmine Lake in the Molecomb Stakes.

3.40: see facing page.

4.15: Ninia is on a roll and, provided she is none the worse for her exertions at Epsom on Wednesday when winning by six lengths from Clan Ben, she can land her fourth race inside a month. Angus-G and Clifton Fox filled the places behind her at Sandown a fortnight ago but are drawn wide and reoppose on only marginally better terms. Serendipity can be forgiven a poor run on unsuitably soft ground at Goodwood and looks a threat judged on earlier form.

4.45: Clement Freud may not thank me for suggesting that **Nagnagnag** is the bet of the day and can carry his silks to a well-deserved success. At York, his filly ran an eye-catching race in a competitive handicap to finish fifth behind Concer Un. Racing off the same handicap mark, she can open her account for the season. Beauchamp Jazz is well treated and goes well over a straight mile. April The Eighth would have a chance if he stays the trip.

Richard Evans

Shaamit can excel over shorter trip

SHAAMIT, the Epsom Derby winner, can regain winning ways in the Irish Champion Stakes at Leopardstown today (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

Shaamit drops back to ten furlongs after his Derby success and a third to Pentire and Classic Cliche in the King George at Ascot, but his trainer, William Haggas, believes the move could favour Shaamit. "Before Epsom I was worried about him getting the trip and, while he did get it, the drop back in trip could suit him if there is a good pace in the race," he said.

Tamayaz and Glory Of Dancer also represent Britain, but there is a strong home defence, headed by the Irish Oaks winner, Dance Design. The Dermot Weld-trained filly runs in preference to Zagreb because of the good to firm ground and Weld said yesterday: "Bringing her back to 1¼ miles should suit, but Shaamit will be hard to beat."

Idris has won four group three races this season, while Timarida is a group one winner in Germany and the United States this year.

On the same card, the group three Flying Five can go to Eveningperformance, trained by Henry Candy.

LEOPARDSTOWN FIELD

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE BBC1 and C4

4.00 IRISH CHAMPION STAKES (Group I: £90,300: 1m 2f) (6 runners)

1 (2) 511411 IDRIS 28 (F,G,S) (M Keogh) J Bolger 6-9-4 ... K J Manning 89
2 (4) 115433 TAMAYAZ 35 (F,G,S) (Godolphin) S bin Suroor (GB) 4-9-4 ... G Carter 88
3 (6) 11-2821 TIMARIDA 21 (F,G,S) (HH Aga Khan) J Oxx 4-9-1 ... J P Murtagh 98
4 (5) 214244 GLORY OF DANCER 20 (F,G,S) (A Balzarini) P Kelleway (GB) 3-8-11 O Peslier 93
5 (1) 41-13 SHAAMIT 49 (F,G) (K Dasmal) W Haggas (GB) 3-8-11 ... M Hills 96
6 (3) 44-2311 DANCE DESIGN 62 (F,G) (Moyglare Stud Farm) D Weld 3-8-8 ... M J Kinane 97

BETTING: 6-4 Shaamit, 3-1 Timarida, 7-2 Dance Design, 5-1 Tamayaz, 10-1 Glory Of Dancer, 14-1 Idris.

BANGOR

THUNDERER
2.10 Eternal City. 2.40 Sonic Star. 3.10 Red Valerian. 3.40 Warner's Sports. 4.10 Flying Green. 4.40 Bellroi.

GOING: GOOD SIS

2.10 LONG SHOT NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,472: 2m 1f) (8 runners)

1 00-1 ETERNAL CITY 18 (D,G) G Richards 5-11-5 ... A Maguire
2 0F0- COUNTRY MINSTREL 210 S Dow 5-10-12 ... S McNeill
3 P6P- DANNY GALE 210 G McCourt 5-10-12 ... G Bradley
4 000- FOLLOW DE CALL 112 D McCain 6-10-12 ... D Walsh (3)
5 33 POWERFUL SPIRIT 24 J G Shea 4-10-10 ... Michael Brennan (5)
6 /24- HYMOSS 387 W Jenks 5-10-7 ... T Jenks
7 F34- RAGOSA 298 J White 5-10-7 ... A P McCoy
8 0- SHADY EMMA 203 F Jordan 4-10-5 ... S Wynne

5-4 Eternal City, 9-4 Powerful Spirit, 6-1 Danny Gale, 8-1 Ragosa, 10-1 Hymoss, 16-1 Shady Emma, 20-1 others

2.40 TOTE CREDIT CLUB NOVICES CHASE (£3,518: 2m 4f 110yd) (4)

1 4-11 SONIC STAR 7 (D,F,G) D Nicholson 7-12-4 ... A Maguire
2 44-1 MILL O'THE RAGS 9 (F) Mrs D Haine 7-11-12 ... J F Titley
3 166- LITTLE BY LITTLE 131P (F) B Preece 6-11-6 ... A Thornton
4 560- ON THE TEAR 157 F Lloyd 10-11-6 ... S McNeill

2-7 Sonic Star, 3-1 Mill O'The Rags, 20-1 Little By Little, 25-1 On The Tear

3.10 DICK FRANCIS HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,311: 2m 1f) (7)

1 -133 STAR MARKET 35 (B,D,F,G,S) J Spearing 6-12-0 ... A P McCoy
2 3-21 RED VALERIAN 8 (V,F) G Moore 5-12-0 ... M A Fitzgerald
3 -1F6 ROBERT'S TOY 24 (B,CD,F,G) M Pipe 5-11-13 ... D Bridgwater
4 UF-U WINDWARD ARIOM 7 (D,F,G,S) P Mitchell 10-11-3 ... A Larnach
5 /33- DON DU CADRAN 178 (G) T Forster 7-11-1 ... A Thornton
6 D-P1 HAVE A NIGHTCAP 21 (B,D,F,G,S) N Littmoden 7-10-9 ... M Richards
7 -221 SARMATIAN 14 (F,G) M Hammond 5-10-9 ... R Garritty

9-4 Red Valerian, 7-2 Sarmatian, 4-1 Don du Cadran, 6-1 Star Market, 7-1 Robert's Toy, 8-1 Windward Ariom, 10-1 Have A Nightcap

3.40 GREENALLS INNS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,404: 3m 110yd) (5)

1 3111 WAKT 21 (F,S) J White 6-12-0 ... Guy Lewis (3)
2 3-21 DEFINITE MAYBE 19 (B,G) P Nicholls 6-11-12 ... M A Fitzgerald
3 04U- SAN GIORGIO 185 (F,S) N Twiston-Davies 7-11-7 ... C Llewellyn
4 01-1 WARNER'S SPORTS 18 (D,F) P Hobbs 7-10-10 ... A P McCoy
5 24P- RENT DAY 133 J Mullins 7-10-0 ... S Curran

15-8 Definite Maybe, 11-4 Warner's Sports, 3-1 Wakt, 7-2 San Giorgio, 16-1 Rent Day

4.10 GORDON MYTTON HOMES JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,827: 2m 1f) (11)

1 1 SHEATH KEFAAH 17 (F) J Jenkins 11-3 ... G Bradley
2 314 BALMORAL PRINCESS 21 (B,CD,F) J Peacock 10-12 ... R Bellamy
3 4 BATH KNIGHT 7F (B) D Bench Davis 10-10 ... S McNeill
4 FLYING GREEN 29F N Walker 10-10 ... Guy Lewis (3)
5 KRASNIK 151F Mrs D Haine 10-10 ... J F Titley
6 PEYTON JONES A Smith 10-10 ... F Jousset
7 SILVERDALE KNIGHT 36F K Hogg 10-10 ... M Foster
8 WELCOME ROYALE 11F M Tompkins 10-10 ... A Maguire
9 FLOOD'S FANCY 6F L Barratt 10-5 ... C Llewellyn
10 UF52 SONG FOR JESS 7 F Jordan 10-5 ... S Wynne
11 TALLULAH BELLE 11F N Littmoden 10-5 ... M Richards

9-4 Sheath Kefaah, 3-1 Welcome Royale, 4-1 Flying Green, 7-1 Silverdale Knight, 8-1 Balmoral Princess, 10-1 Song For Jess, Krasnik, 14-1 others.

4.40 DEAD CERT HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,967: 2m 4f) (14)

1 0F0- ILEWIN 278 (CD,F,G,S) G McCourt 9-11-10 ... G Bradley
2 00P- BELLROI 20F (F) M Tompkins 5-11-4 ... A Maguire
3 -844 KING'S SHILLING 43 (C,F,G,S) H Oliver 9-11-2 ... G Supple (7)
4 4321 FIRST CRACK 17 (D,F,G,S) F Jordan 11-10-13 ... S Wynne
5 242- SEVERN GALE 130 (S) P Nicholls 6-10-12 ... A P McCoy
6 60U5 BATTY'S ISLAND 24 (C,F,G,S) B Preece 7-10-8 ... A Thornton
7 -312 PLINTH 19 (BF,G) N Graham 5-10-7 ... M A Fitzgerald
8 0P0- PRIZE MATCH 191 (S) J Tuck 7-10-6 ... S McNeill
9 000- BUCKLEY BOYS 112 (G) Mrs L Williamson 5-10-6 ... Mr R Thornton (7)
10 00/ PLEASE CALL 675 D Geraghty 7-10-3 ... J R Kavanagh
11 60/ EMPEROR CHANG 637 (F) K Warner 9-10-1 ... T Kent
12 0-62 TASHREEF 14 (B,F,S) J Birkett 6-10-1 ... L O'Hara
13 P54/ IBN SINA 504P W Clay 9-10-0 ... R Farrant
14 PFP- LUSTREMAN 430 (C,F,G) J Peacock 9-10-0 ... R Bellamy

7-2 Bellroi, 4-1 First Crack, 5-1 Plinth, 6-1 Severn Gale, 7-1 Tashreef, 8-1 King's Shilling, 10-1 Ilewin, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Hammond, 5 winners from 16 runners, 31.3%; M Pipe, 19 from 65, 29.2%; D Nicholson, 11 from 38, 28.9%; G Richards, 23 from 88, 26.1%; J White, 7 from 28, 25.0%; J Jenkins, 4 from 17, 23.5%.

JOCKEYS: G Bradley, 6 winners from 18 rides, 33.3%; R Garritty, 6 from 25, 24.0%; D Bridgwater, 14 from 63, 22.2%; C Llewellyn, 8 from 40, 20.0%; A P McCoy, 3 from 15, 20.0%; A Maguire, 12 from 65, 18.5%.

SEDGEFIELD

THUNDERER
1.50 Classic Crest. 2.20 Robsera. 2.50 The Gallopin'major. 3.25 Notable Exception. 4.05 Go-Go-Power-Ranger. 4.35 Suas Leat.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (FIRM IN PLACES) SIS

1.50 JOHN WADE HINO TRUCK NOVICES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,891: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 /5F- ANTHONY BELL 343 (F,G) T Carr 10-12-0 ... T J Comerford (7)
2 5-05 CLASSIC CREST 8 (V,CD,F) G Moore 5-11-11 ... T Hogg (7)
3 324- TOP FELLA 117 (B) P Dennis 4-11-9 ... D Bentley
4 -352 WHAT'S SECRETO 8 (B) H Alexander 4-11-9 ... P Niven
5 -U4P BOWLAND PARK 8 E Alston 5-11-1 ... T J Murphy
6 0-50 HAUGHTON LAD 8 F Murtagh 7-10-13 ... A Roche
7 00-0 DARK MIDNIGHT 8 D Lamb 7-10-5 ... J Burke
8 -F24 SAKBAH 7 J Pickering 7-10-5 ... N Williamson
9 P556 PIMSBOY 8 (B) G Oldroyd 9-10-5 ... P Midgley (3)
10 U-52 ARRANGE A GAME 19 (B) Miss J Bower 9-10-0 ... S Taylor (5)

6-4 What's Secreto, 7-2 Classic Crest, 6-1 Sakbah, 8-1 Pimsboy, 10-1 others

2.20 SHOTTON NOVICES HURDLE (£2,478: 2m 1f) (8)

1 13 FIELD OF VISION 21 (D,BF,F) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-5 ... J Supple
2 346/ BLANC SEING 669 J Sowers 9-10-12 ... Mr S Swiers
3 3F0- QUARTZ HILL 109 D Lamb 7-10-12 ... J Burke
4 RHYTHMIC DANCER 351F D Nolan 8-10-12 ... B Storey
5 00-4 ROBSERA 10F J Quinn 5-10-12 ... L Wyer
6 32 FATEHALKHAIR 16 B Ellison 4-10-10 ... G Cahill (3)
7 R KASHANA 8 W Storey 4-10-5 ... M Moloney
8 5 TRUMPED 8 P Monteith 4-10-5 ... B Harding

9-4 Robsera, 3-1 Fatehalkhair, 7-2 Field Of Vision, 5-1 Trumped, 10-1 others

2.50 JOHNNY RIDLEY MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (£3,769: 3m 3f) (6)

1 122- GO SILLY 128 (V,CD,F,G,S) B Ellison 10-12-0 ... G Cahill (3)
2 P43D THE BLUE BOY 8 (B,F,G,S) P Bowen 8-11-9 ... N Williamson
3 3132 GEORGE ASHFORD 8 (V,F,G) K Morgan 6-10-13 ... A S Smith
4 P-22 STAIGUE FORT 8 (CD,F,G) Denys Smith 8-10-10 ... P Niven
5 P221 THE GALLOPIN'MAJOR 8 (B,CD,F) Mrs M Reveley 6-10-2 ... N Smith
6 6-35 UPWELL 21 (CD,F) P Johnson 12-10-0 ... K Johnson

5-2 The Gallopin'major, 3-1 Go Silly, 7-2 The Blue Boy, 4-1 others

3.25 RAMSIDE CATERING SERVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,254: 2m 5f) (9)

1 66R- MCGREGOR THE THIRD 161 (F,G) G Richards 10-11-13 ... B Harding
2 2121 MAGIC BLOOM 8 (CD,F,G) J Jefferson 10-11-1 ... R Guest
3 6433 WISE ADVICE 28 (F) M Hammond 6-10-10 ... N Williamson
4 43-1 NOTABLE EXCEPTION 63 (F,G,S) Mrs M Reveley 7-10-6 ... P Niven
5 1103 NOCATCHIM 32 (V,BF,F,G,S) K Morgan 7-10-5 ... A S Smith
6 423- REBEL KING 122 (C,F,G) M Barnes 6-10-5 ... P Waggott
7 P5P- JENDEE 168 (C,S) B Ellison 8-10-0 ... G Cahill (3)
8 P5P- LAURIE-O 112 (B,C,F,G,S) D Lamb 12-10-0 ... J Burke
9 0-P6 SMOKEY TRACK 8 (F,S) Mrs J Conway 11-10-0 ... S Taylor (5)

9-4 Notable Exception, 3-1 Magic Bloom, 9-2 McGregor The Third, 5-1 others

4.05 PARTRIDGE JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,425: 2m 1f) (15)

1 1 PRELUDE TO FAME 19 (D,G) Miss M Milligan 11-3 ... A S Smith
2 COTTAGE PRINCE 12F J Quinn 10-10 ... L Wyer
3 FIZZY BOY 12F P Monteith 10-10 ... B Harding
4 2 GO-GO-POWER-RANGER 19 B Ellison 10-10 ... G Cahill (3)
5 NO MORE HASSLE 17F Mrs M Reveley 10-10 ... P Niven
6 OXGANG 31F J Fitzgerald 10-10 ... M Dwyer
7 PHANTOM DANCER 89F M Sowersby 10-10 ... D Parker (3)
8 SLEEPY BOY 38F W Storey 10-10 ... R McGrath (5)
9 STOLEAMARCH 17F Mrs M Reveley 10-10 ... G Lee (3)
10 THE BLACK DUBH 28F J Quinn 10-10 ... B Storey
11 AMYLOU 71F R Allan 10-5 ... S Melrose (7)
12 HOBBS CHOICE 14F G Moore 10-5 ... N Bentley
13 HOT DOGGING 39F Mrs P Sly 10-5 ... R Marley
14 6 MISS IMPULSE 12 Miss J Bower 10-5 ... S Taylor (5)
15 4 NORTHERN FALCON 42 (B) M W Easterby 10-5 ... N Williamson

7-2 Prelude To Fame, 4-1 Go-Go-Power-Ranger, 5-1 Oxgang, 6-1 others

4.35 ST LEGER CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,408: 2m 1f) (10)

1 246- TWIN FALLS 107F (G) G Moore 5-11-10 ... T Hogg (5)
2 505/ WEE WIZARD 518 (F,G,S) M Barnes 7-11-2 ... S Taylor
3 0223 STRONG JOHN 8 (F,G) M Sowersby 8-10-13 ... D Parker
4 3-31 SUAS LEAT 8 (CD,F) J Jefferson 6-10-13 ... M Newton (3)
5 032F EXCLUSION 23 (F) J Hetherton 7-10-11 ... F Leahy
6 640- BOLANEY GIRL 134 (F) F Murtagh 7-10-6 ... A Roche
7 -405 FLINTLOCK 21 (D,F) H Alexander 6-10-5 ... R McGrath
8 63P- FLY TO THE END 238 (S) J Quinn 6-10-3 ... S Rudd (7)
9 F0-4 FUNNY ROSE 8 P Monteith 6-10-0 ... M P Dunne (3)
10 01-2 CLOVER GIRL 19 (V,D,BF,G) B Ellison 5-10-0 ... G Cahill

9-4 Suas Leat, 9-2 Twin Falls, 5-1 Exclusion, 6-1 Strong John, 8-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: P Bowen, 5 winners from 10 runners, 50.0%; Mrs M Reveley, 64 from 223, 28.7%; J Fitzgerald, 13 from 50, 26.0%; G Moore, 20 from 117, 17.1%; W Storey, 7 from 44, 15.9%; Denys Smith, 13 from 86, 15.1%.

JOCKEYS: S Melrose, 3 winners from 8 rides, 37.5%; P Niven, 52 from 164, 31.7%; G Lee, 9 from 33, 27.3%; L Wyer, 22 from 106, 20.8%; M Dwyer, 22 from 106, 20.8%; N Williamson, 5 from 28, 17.9%.

Longchamp offers hints to Arc puzzle

CLUES to the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe should be plentiful on a fascinating programme at Longchamp tomorrow. The Paris track stages the Prix Vermeille (3.05), Prix Niel (3.35) and Prix Foy (4.35), with two-year-olds catered for by the Prix de la Salamandre (4.05). The Niel, Salamandre and Foy will be shown live, and a recording of the Vermeille, on BBC2.

Geoff Wragg runs Pentire, the King George winner, in the Prix Foy, in which the sternest opposition could come from André Fabre's Coronation Cup winner, Swain.

The Prix Niel features the reappearance of the Arc favourite, Helissio, who returns after a summer break. He may have most to fear from the Aga Khan's well-regarded Darazari and Peter Chapple-Hyam's Polaris Flight.

The Prix Vermeille has drawn Bint Salsabil and Papering from Britain. However, Fabre could have the answer with his three-strong challenge of Miss Tahiti, Luna Wells and Tulipa.

Fabre's juvenile, Zamindar, returns after a surprise defeat in the Prix Morny at Deauville to tackle a field which includes Chapple-Hyam's Revoque, re-routed from the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER
2.25 Corrin Hill. 2.55 Tipping Along. 3.30 Royal Vacation. 4.00 Layham Low. 4.35 Celibate. 5.05 Barton Blade.

GOING: FIRM (CHASE COURSE GOOD TO FIRM) SIS

2.25 POLLY HOWES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,129: 2m) (12 runners)

1 424- CORRIN HILL 168 (F,G,S) R Hodges 9-12-0 ... J Harris (8)
2 6-04 WORDSMITH 20F (D,G,S) J L Harris 6-11-5 ... J Culloty
3 B0-1 SIMAND 19 (D,G) G Moore 4-10-11 ... D J Kavanagh
4 P4F3 NORTHERN NATION 19 (V,D,G) W Clay 8-10-8 ... P Henley
5 5643 RAY RIVER 19 (B,CD,F,G) K Wingrove 4-10-7 ... G Tormey
6 4-2P SLIPPERY MAX 19 (V,D,F,G) R Juckes 12-10-3 ... R Massey
7 2432 MINNESOTA FATS 19 Miss M Rowland 4-10-1 ... G Hogan
8 60P- SHEDANSAR 173 R Spicer 4-10-0 ... E Husband
9 502 GALLOPING GUNS 24 B Llewellyn 4-10-0 ... Chris Webb
10 000- CATWALKER 123 H Webb 5-10-0 ... Sophie Mitchell
11 66-0 LOVELARK 97 R Lee 7-10-0 ... B Fenton
12 0-60 ATHENIAN ALLIANCE 21 J Bradley 7-10-0 ... G F Ryan

11-4 Corrin Hill, 3-1 Wordsmith, 7-2 Simand, 4-1 Minnesota Fats, 7-1 Ray River, 8-1 Galloping Guns, 10-1 Northern Nation, 14-1 others.

2.55 QUEENSWAY MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,087: 3m) (11)

1 6P-6 BANKS OF THE BRIDE 10 Mrs B Waring 6-11-5 ... E Byrne
2 033 CROWN IVORY 19 P Ritchens 8-11-5 ... S Fox
3 00-5 HEATON 10 H Rowsell 9-11-5 ... B Powell
4 4S0- KAREN'S TYPHOON 130 P Hobbs 5-11-5 ... J Osborne
5 2 LEAR DANCER 17 (BF) Miss M Rowland 5-11-5 ... Gary Lyons
6 556- MISTER BLAKE 141 R Lee 6-11-5 ... R Johnson
7 0/ PADDITATE 878 R Hodges 7-11-5 ... T Dascombe (3)
8 53-B TIPPING ALONG 17 (V) D Gandolfo 7-11-5 ... R Dunwoody
9 0 SALTIS 66 A Forbes 4-11-2 ... T Eley
10 0R0- DRAGONMIST 159 D Burchell 6-11-0 ... Miss E J Jones (7)
11 5P3- FLYNN'S GIRL 110 Mrs J Pitman 7-11-0 ... W Marston

5-2 Flynn's Girl, 11-4 Crown Ivory, 7-2 Tipping Along, 5-1 Lear Dancer, 6-1 Karen's Typhoon, 8-1 Mister Blake, 25-1 Dragonmist, 33-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: O Sherwood, 16 winners from 49 runners, 32.7%; Miss H Knight, 12 from 37, 32.4%; C Mann, 6 from 19, 31.6%; P Hobbs, 25 from 117, 21.4%; K Wingrove, 4 from 19, 21.1%; R Lee, 7 from 41, 17.1%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 26 winners from 96 rides, 27.1%; J Culloty, 5 from 21, 23.8%; E Husband, 3 from 14, 21.4%; R Massey, 4 from 21, 19.0%; R Dunwoody, 30 from 201, 14.9%; R Johnson, 7 from 48, 14.6%.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bangor: 4.10 Bath Knight. Doncaster: 3.05 Fredrik The Fierce, Nevada. 4.45 Beauchamp Jazz. 5.15 In Good Nick. Sedgefield: 4.05 Northern Falcon. Worcester: 2.25 Northern Nation, Tipping Along.

3.30 DOWELANCO HANDICAP CHASE (£4,468: 2m 7f) (5)

1 41P- TARTAN TRADEWINDS 110 (F,G,S) G Richards 9-12-0 ... R Dunwoody
2 2P0- STAUNCH RIVAL 178 (C,D,F,G,S) G Thorner 9-11-9 ... B Powell
3 -112 ROYAL VACATION 7 (F,G) G Moore 7-11-0 ... J Callaghan
4 21-1 CERTAIN ANGLE 97 (D,F,G,S) P Hobbs 7-11-0 ... C Maude
5 1111 MAGGOTS GREEN 7 (C,F,G,S) J Bradley 9-10-2 ... R Johnson

11-4 Maggots Green, 3-1 Royal Vacation, 100-30 Certain Angle, 7-2 Staunch Rival, 5-1 Tartan Tradewinds

4.00 SOLIHULL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,819: 2m 4f) (9)

1 -220 SUIVEZ 44 (F,G,S) Mrs N Macauley 6-12-0 ... R Dunwoody
2 6-41 PREROGATIVE 18 (V,D,F,G,S) H Howe 6-10-13 ... C Maude
3 /31 FIELDRIDGE 15F (F,G) M Meagher 7-10-13 ... B Powell
4 -12F JENZSOPH 17 (BF,F,S) P Hobbs 5-10-8 ... D J Kavanagh (5)
5 14-1 WADADA 14F (C,D,F,G) D Burchell 5-10-7 ... D J Burchell
6 31-4 LAYHAM LOW 19 (BF,F) O Sherwood 5-10-3 ... J Osborne
7 U00- HE'S A KING 132F (F) C Popham 6-10-3 ... T Dascombe (3)
8 51-4 FANTASTIC FLEET 19 (BF,F,S) A Jones 4-10-1 ... R Johnson
9 1F-5 TRUMPET 19 (F) J O'Shea 7-10-0 ... G Hogan (3)

3-1 Suivez, 7-2 Fieldridge, 4-1 Prerogative, 9-2 Wadada, 6-1 Jenzsoph, 7-1 He's A King, 10-1 Fantastic Fleet, 12-1 others.

4.35 CORPORATION STREET NOVICES CHASE (£3,563: 2m) (7)

1 3-42 HERESTHEDEAL 9 (V,F,G) G McCourt 7-10-12 ... B Clifford
2 112- HOLY WANDERER 133 (F,G) T George 7-10-12 ... G Hogan (3)
3 -PPU SAXON BLADE 49 R Stronge 8-10-12 ... L Harvey
4 00 WOTANITE 66 O O'Neill 6-10-12 ... V Slattery
5 0423 BETABETCORBETT 23 (B) B Baugh 5-10-10 ... T Eley
6 U0-2 CELIBATE 18 (F,G,S) C Mann 5-10-10 ... R Dunwoody
7 446- MR CONDUCTOR 134 (G) R Alner 5-10-10 ... P Henley (5)

6-4 Celibate, 9-4 Holy Wanderer, 11-4 Heresthedeal, 10-1 Mr Conductor, 14-1 Betabetcorbett, 40-1 Wotanite, 80-1 Saxon Blade

5.05 EDGBASTON STANDARD OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,385: 2m) (20)

1 CAPTAIN FELIX A Dunn 6-11-4 ... C Maude
2 6- EYE OF THE STORM 159 J Quinn 5-11-4 ... R Dunwoody
3 MADHAZE J Moore 5-11-4 ... W McFarland
4 TEDDY EDWARD Mrs A Naughton 6-11-4 ... R Wilkinson (7)
5 TERRANO STAR D Burchell 5-11-4 ... D J Burchell
6 WRITE AXLE P Eccles 6-11-4 ... B Fenton
7 6- ALL SEWN UP 169 R Baker 4-11-2 ... L Harvey
8 0- BARTON BLADE 127 Miss H Knight 4-11-2 ... J Culloty
9 34- CHIEF GALE 138 J O'Shea 4-11-2 ... Michael Brennan (5)
10 LAKESIDE LAD D Burchell 4-11-2 ... J Prior (7)
11 NANUZAL K Bridgwater 4-11-2 ... T Eley
12 NEVER IN DEBT A Hobbs 4-11-2 ... Mr G Shenton (7)
13 0 TAILORMADE FUTURE 24 B Preece 4-11-2 ... D Finnegan (7)
14 POLLIFUMAS J L Harris 6-10-13 ... D Gallagher
15 000- ROSEHALL 164 Mrs T Pitkington 5-10-13 ... G Hogan (3)
16 SOLAR MOON R Buckler 5-10-13 ... B Powell
17 CELTIC FIREFLY R Rowe 4-10-11 ... R Johnson
18 KLOSTERS R Hodges 4-10-11 ... T Dascombe (3)
19 LEOPARD LADY W G M Turner 4-10-11 ... N Willmington (7)
20 MISS MONNIE Miss L Shally 4-10-11 ... D Leahy

4-1 Chief Gale, 5-1 Leopard Lady, 6-1 Barton Blade, 7-1 Teddy Edward, Terrano Star, 8-1 Celtic Firefly, Lakeside Lad, 10-1 others

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Doncaster

Going: good to firm

1.30 (1m) 1, CAPE CROSS (L Dettori, 3-1, Newmarket Correspondent's nap); 2, Shaya (W Carson, 11-4 fav); 3, Voyagers Quest (G Duffield, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Flirting Around, 6 Lookout (5th), Racourse (4th), 20 Frutie O'Flarety, 33 Ibin St James, Wallcome Inn, 50 Pertemps Mission (6th). 10 ran. 1¼l, 3l, 1l, 1¾l, 3l. J Gosden at Newmarket. Tote: £4.50; £1.30, £1.50, £3.80. DF: £6.60. Trio: £46.00. CSF: £11.98.

2.00 (1m 4f) 1, SPILLO (K Darley, 5-1); 2, Dauni (L Dettori, 4-1 fav); 3, Time For Action (M Henry, 7-1). ALSO RAN: 10 Pike Creek (4th), Royal Action, Three Hills (5th), 12 Askern, Canton Venture (6th), Jagellon, 14 Pleasant Surprise, Wight, 20 Endowment, Manful. 13 ran. NR: Blackpatch Hill. 4l, 2l, 1½l, 1½l, 8l. L Cumani at Newmarket. Tote: £5.30; £1.70, £1.80, £3.20. DF: £7.00. Trio: £23.10. CSF: £24.45. Tricast: £128.95.

2.35 (1m 2f 60yd) 1, FOREST BUCK (A McGlone, 10-1); 2, Storm Trooper (M J Kinane, 8-15 fav); 3, Prince Of My Heart (M Hills, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Wijara (4th), 8 Maiden Castle (5th), 33 Tarte Aux Pommes (6th). 6 ran. 2½l, 3½l, 2l, 1½l, 2½l. H Cecil at Newmarket. Tote: £9.90; £2.90, £1.10. DF: £3.40. CSF: £15.56.

3.05 (1m 4f) 1, BUSY FLIGHT (M Hills, 5-1); 2, Kalabo (L Dettori, 9-2); 3, Minds Music (K Fallon, 100-30 fav). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Sal Harbour (5th), 13-2 Desert Shot (4th), 15-2 Haleakala, 20 Smart Play (6th), 33 Anchor Clever, Weet-A-Minute. 9 ran. 1½l, 1¾l, 1½l, 6l, hd. B Hills at Lambourn. Tote: £5.90; £1.90, £1.90, £1.30. DF: £23.60. Trio: £19.20. CSF: £25.12.

3.35 (7f) 1, BAHHARE (W Carson, 4-6 fav); 2, In Command (M Hills, 9-1); 3, Musheer (K Fallon, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 4 Rebquary (4th). 4 ran. NR: Revoque. 3½l, 14l, 4l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £1.60. DF: £3.90. CSF: £5.73.

4.10 (5f) 1, SURPRISE MISSION (A Culhane, 14-1); 2, Gone Savage (L Dettori, 9-2 fav); 3, Daawe (M Deering, 16-1); 4, Kira (W Carson, 15-2). ALSO RAN: 7 Oatey, 12 Just Dissident, Panther (6th), 14 Insider Trader (5th), Literary Society, Saddlehome, 16 Sing With The Band, Tropical Beach, 20 Chadwell Hall, Master of Passion, Royal Dome, 25 Barranak, Playmaker, 33 Beau Venture, Blessingindisguise, Cheeky Chappy, Miss Waterline. 21 ran. NR: Air Wing. ¾l, ½l, 2½l, ¾l, nk. Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk. Tote: £18.70; £4.10, £1.50, £3.60, £1.70. DF: £62.10. Trio: £783.70. CSF: £74.69. Tricast: £983.21. After a stewards' inquiry, result stood.

4.40 (1m) 1, KAMMTARRA (L Dettori, 7-2); 2, Ali-Royal (M J Kinane, 7-4 fav); 3, Tawidi (W Carson, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 8 World Premier (5th), 9 Pommard (6th), 10 Bonarelli, 14 Van Gurp, 25 Dublin River, 33 Kala Sunrise (4th). 9 ran. 1½l, 2½l, 3½l, 2½l, 3l. Saeed bin Suroor at Newmarket. Tote: £3.50; £1.10, £1.40, £2.10. DF: £3.80. Trio: £8.40. CSF: £9.85.

Jackpot: £7,100.00 (part won; pool of £5,366.00 carried forward to Doncaster today).

Placepot: £14.80.

Quadpot: £3.80.

Goodwood

Going: good (straight course), good to firm (round)

2.10 (7f) 1, Brandon Jack (R Cochrane, 7-1); 2, Flight Tune (5-2 fav); 3, Sally Jack (16-1). 10 ran. NR: Bold Oriental. 1½l, hd. I Balding. Tote: £7.10; £1.90, £1.70, £2.40. DF: £17.70. Trio: £63.80. CSF: £23.91. Tricast: £256.54.

2.40 (1m) 1, Falkenham (T Quinn, 8-11 fav); 2, Hello (5-1); 3, Double Park (8-1). 5 ran. 1l, 3l. P Cole. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.80. DF: £2.90. CSF: £4.73.

3.10 (1m 1f) 1, Autumn Cover (D Biggs, 25-1); 2, Night Wink (16-1); 3, North Song (4-1 fav); 4, Panata (5-1). 17 ran. Nk, 1¼l. P Hedger. Tote: £28.80; £4.60, £4.10, £1.40, £2.20. DF: £421.90. Trio: £379.40. CSF: £334.06. Tricast: £1,832.37.

3.40 (7f) 1, Polar Prince (R Cochrane, 6-2); 2, Russian Music (9-4 fav); 3, Silver Prey (6-1). 8 ran. 1¾l, hd. M Jarvis. Tote: £3.50; £1.50, £1.10, £1.70. DF: £3.80. CSF: £8.10.

4.15 (1m) 1, Ashby Hill (G Carter, 7-1 jt-fav); 2, Mystic Dawn (10-1); 3, Thatchmaster (7-1 jt-fav); 4, Duello (8-1). 20 ran. NR: Prince Zizim. Sh hd, 1¾l. R Rowe. Tote: £7.80; £2.10, £3.80, £1.60, £2.00. DF: £71.60. Trio: £83.10. CSF: £68.67. Tricast: £473.51. After a stewards' inquiry the first two placings were reversed.

4.50 (1m 4f) 1, Willie Conquer (T Quinn, 9-4 jt-fav); 2, Wild Rita (9-4 jt-fav); 3, Steamroller Stanly (6-1). 5 ran. Nk, 1l. R Akehurst. Tote: £2.40; £1.70, £1.20. DF: £2.10. CSF: £7.15.

5.20 (6f) 1, Hurricane State (R Havlin, 6-4 fav); 2, Kumait (2-1); 3, Select Choice (20-1). 14 ran. NR: Hachiyah. 5l, 6l. P Chapple-Hyam. Tote: £2.60; £1.30, £1.40, £7.00. DF: £2.50. Trio: £14.80. CSF: £5.34.

Placepot: £7.30. Quadpot: £2.70.

Worcester

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Wottashambles (D Morris, 11-10 fav); 2, Basil Street (5-1); 3, Leap In The Dark (50-1). 9 ran. 3½l, 3l. L Montague Hall. Tote: £2.00; £1.30, £1.90, £7.00. DF: £5.60. Trio: £78.40. CSF: £7.06.

2.55 (2m 7f ch) 1, Father Sky (J Osborne, 5-2); 2, Clifton Set (4-6 fav); 3, Glenfinn Princess (5-1). 6 ran. 7l, 5l. O Sherwood. Tote: £3.40; £2.00, £1.40. DF: £2.10. CSF: £4.51.

3.25 (3m hdle) 1, Little Tincture (G Upton, 9-1); 2, Hylters Chance (9-2); 3, Wynberg (15-8 fav). 6 ran. Shd, 3l. Mrs T McInnes Skinner. Tote: £13.00; £3.10, £1.90. DF: £23.50. CSF: £41.29.

3.55 (2m ch) 1, Captain Khedive (A P McCoy, 4-7 fav); 2, Houghton (12-1). 3 ran. 1¾l. P Nicholls. Tote: £1.50. DF: £3.30. CSF: £4.62. Only two finished.

4.30 (2m hdle) 1, Blown Wind (J Osborne, 7-2 jt-fav); 2, Dantean (20-1); 3, Last Laugh (14-1). Highly Charming 7-2 jt-fav. 18 ran. 8l, 3l. O Sherwood. Tote: £4.40; £2.00, £4.10, £2.80. DF: £88.30. Trio: £208.70. CSF: £67.44.

5.00 (2m hdle) 1, Cooley's Valve (Sophie Mitchell, 15-8); 2, Ikhtiraa (11-4); 3, Gone By (6-5 fav). 3 ran. NR: Yubralee. 4l, 1½l. Mrs S Williams. Tote: £2.80. DF: £2.20. CSF: £5.80.

Placepot: £335.60. Quadpot: £67.70.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

CANTONA LINES UP A NEW CAREER

ANOTHER BIG EXCLUSIVE ONLY IN TOMORROW'S NEWS OF THE WORLD

GOLF

Davies maintains her relentless drive for success

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

ON AND on and on goes Laura Davies, seemingly immune to tiredness and oblivious to boredom. When her colleagues leave the women's golf tour after three or four tournaments in a row, in order to have some relaxation, she catches a plane or jumps into her car and heads for the next event.

Not the least of Davies's extraordinary talents may be her strength of mind and physique. This is her eighth successive week of competitive golf, the Solheim Cup at St Pierre next week will be her ninth and two more events follow that match before she will allow herself a week off. All this — and perhaps because of it — and she is still playing some of the best and most consistent golf of her life, as a 66, six under par, in the Wilkinson Sword Ladies English Open at The Oxfordshire demonstrated yesterday.

A fresh wind blew for much of the second round. Davies played in the worst of it but she and Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, one of her playing partners and another member of Europe's Solheim Cup team, made the course look easy, which it palpably was not. Their two rounds totalled 14 under par on a day when only 12 other golfers were able to beat par.

De Lorenzi went round in 64, breaking the year-old course record held by Laura Navarro. She is nine under par, two strokes ahead of Helen Alfredsson, who added a 70 to her first-round 67. Davies and Navarro are both six under par.

"I am going so well I have to keep going," Davies, who leads the United States money-list and lies second in the European one, said. "You can't throw in the towel. Every round seems so important. There always seems to be something to play for but I would rather that than have nothing to play for."

When Alfredsson teed off at lunchtime, she did not not realise how well de Lorenzi, who had just finished, had scored. She was not alone. Spectators found it difficult to keep track of the scores, too, and perhaps this was why there were so few people watching. The official attendance was between 1,500 and 1,800.

From the moment Alfredsson left the 1st tee until she reached the 6th there was no way of knowing how she was doing unless you followed and counted her every stroke. At a tournament of this stature it would have been a help to have had mobile scoreboards with the leaders. The people carrying such boards would have been better employed than were those few marshals carrying ones saying 'Silence' on them, which they rather shamefacedly held up from time to time. Many of the matches did not have enough spectators to make a noise.

A round with Alfredsson contains more than the normal share of diversions. She fidgets at the address, continually regripping with her right hand and, just when it looks as though she is going to start her backswing, she stops one third of the way back to examine her hands in relation to the clubface. When her 18-foot putt on the 6th headed towards the hole she leaned forward like a fencer and, as the ball caught the left lip, swung to the right and eventually disappeared, she did a little dance.

Marching up the 18th, she suddenly and loudly burst into what sounded like Italian, perhaps in honour of Federica Dassu, a playing partner.

LEADING QUALIFIERS: 135: M-L de Lorenzi (Fr) 71, 64. 137: H Alfredsson (Swe) 67, 70. 138: L Davies 72, 66; L Navarro (Sp) 68, 70. 141: S Dallongeville (Fr) 70, 71; K Marshall 71, 70; P Meunier Lebouc (Fr) 70, 71. 143: J Soulsby 71, 72; A-M Knight (Aus) 74, 69; W Dicks 72, 71; C Dibnah (Aus) 69, 74. 144: V van Ryckeghem (Bel) 75, 69; S Bennett 71, 73 145: S Waugh (Aus) 71, 74; S Eriksson (Swe) 73, 72; A-C Jonasson (Swe) 73, 72. 146: I Maconi (It) 73, 73; A Brighouse 75, 71, L Brooky (NZ) 71, 75; S Burnell 75, 71. 147: K Pearce (Aus) 72, 75; T Johnson 76, 71; P Sterner (Swe) 74, 73; M Hjorth (Swe) 70, 77; D Reid 74, 73; R Lautens (Switz) 71, 76; A Nicholas 72, 75.

England undaunted by pluck of the Irish

ENGLAND overwhelmed plucky Ireland 10-5 to win the men's amateur home international title for the fourth consecutive year at Moray, Lossiemouth, yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes).

Scotland, meanwhile, recovered from a 3½-1½ foursomes deficit to record a 9-6 victory over Wales, the 1993 European champions, who collected the wooden spoon for the third year in a row.

England laid the foundations for their triumph with a commanding foursomes display, after which they led by 4-0 with one match halved.

Ireland battled bravely in the afternoon and at one time England were in front in only two games, but then the defending champions, for whom Gary Wolstenholme, the Walker Cup player, was unbeaten, moved up a gear and produced a series of vital victories.

When Peter Fenton finally saw off the challenge of Graham Spring by 4 and 3, it was all over — England had amassed sufficient points and they went on to take the singles 5½-4½ for a clear-cut win.

RESULTS: Scotland 9 Wales 6 (Scotland names first) Foursomes: B Howard and M Brooks lost to Y Taylor and N Edwards 4 and 3; S Young and S Mackenzie halved with M Peet and C Rees; A Forsyth and C Hislop lost to D Park and M Smith 3 and 2; R Beames and E Forbes bt M Ellis and J Donaldson 7 and 6; C Watson and G Thomson lost to R Price and L Harpin 4 and 3 Singles: Brooks halved with Taylor; Young bt Edwards 3 and 1; Howard halved with Park; Forsyth halved with Peet; Watson bt Rees 4 and 3; A Turnbull bt Smith one hole; Thomson bt Ellis one hole; Beames lost to Donaldson 3 and 2; Forbes bt Price 2 and 1; Mackenzie bt A Campbell 2 and 1. England 10, Ireland 5 (England names first): Foursomes: G Wolstenholme and D Lucas halved with G McGimpsey and K Nolan; M Carver and M Blackey bt P Lawrie and N Fox 2 and 1; L Donald and M Reynard bt J Morris and B O'Meara one hole; K Wallbank and P Fenton bt P Murray and A Morrow 5 and 4; S Webster and R Wiggins bt J Flanagan and M McGinley 2 and 1. Singles: W Bladon lost to Lawrie 2 and 1; Carver lost to Nolan 3 and 1, Lucas bt Flanagan one hole, Blackey bt McGimpsey 3 and 2: Wolstenholme bt Morris 2 and 1; Wallbank lost to Morrow 2 and 1, Reynard halved with Murray; Fenton bt G Spring 4 and 3; Wiggins bt Fox one hole; Webster lost to O'Meara 3 and 1.

GILL ALLEN

Davies putts under the watchful eye of de Lorenzi, the tournament leader

Brown tightens England grip

By Patricia Davies

ON A glorious September gem of a day that the East Lothian tourist board would not dare publicise for fear of breaching the Trade Descriptions Act, England induced some local gloom when they beat Scotland to win the women's home internationals for the fifth successive year, at Longniddry yesterday.

It was close enough to give the respective supporters the heebie-jeebies, but Scotland put themselves on the back foot by losing the foursomes, 2-1, when the series should, by rights, have been shared at worst. In the decisive third match, Mhairi McKay and Laura Moffat took three putts from just off the edge of the green at the 18th to lose to Joanne Hockley and Fiona Brown.

Brown, who holed a tester from five feet for a winning birdie four, had a good day, for she also earned the point that secured the title, beating Hilary Monaghan on the 17th after wins by Anne Laing, the Scottish champion, and McKay had given Scotland hope, with Lesley Nicholson on the way to victory against Karen Stupples.

However, Kim Rostron, who won all her singles, had a fine win against Alison Rose, and Rebecca Hudson, who won all four of her matches, played too well for Moffat, her fellow teenager, so all eyes were on Brown and Monaghan.

Brown won the 10th when Monaghan missed a short putt and hit a wedge stiff at the 11th, to go two up. Monaghan holed from 20 feet to win the 13th, but drove into the rough at the 15th, to go two down again, and two halves in par saw Brown, and England, clad in tartan trews, home.

The wooden spoon had red ribbons on it as Wales, so close to winning the title last season, slithered to defeat in the singles against Ireland. Ireland, who had lost to Scotland and England after winning the foursomes, bamboozled Wales by reversing the trend. Ireland lost the foursomes 2-1 — their top pair free-falling from five up after ten holes to one down after 18 — but lost only one of the singles, the meeting of the champions, in which Lisa Dermott beat Barbara Hackett on the last.

RESULTS: Ireland 5½ Wales 3½ (Ireland names first): Foursomes: E R Power and S Fanagan lost to L Dermott and B Morgan 1 hole; A Coffey and M McGreevy bt B Jones and K Stark 3 and 1; E Higgins and A O'Sullivan lost to D Richards and V Thomas 2 and 1. Singles: B Hackett lost to Dermott 1 hole; McGreevy bt Thomas 2 holes; Coffey bt N Evans 3 and 2; O'Sullivan bt Morgan 3 and 1; Higgins halved with Stark, Power bt Richards 4 and 3. Scotland 4 England 5 (Scotland names first): Foursomes: A Rose and H Monaghan bt E Ratcliffe and K Stupples 2 and 1; A Laing and S McMaster lost to R Hudson and K Rostron 5 and 4; M McKay and L Moffat lost to F Brown and J Hockley 1 hole. Singles: Laing bt Hockley 3 and 2; McKay bt Ratcliffe 4 and 2; Rose lost to Rostron 4 and 3; Monaghan lost to Brown 2 and 1; Moffat lost to Hudson 3 and 2; L Nicholson bt Stupples 3 and 1

Woosnam out to steal Montgomerie's morning glory

From Mel Webb in Paris

LIKE most fighters, Ian Woosnam is the sort of fellow who likes to land the first punch, but he reckons that he has been denied the chance to do that lately in his catchweight contest against Colin Montgomerie for the undisputed European money-earning title — and Woosnam, feisty little slugger that he is, is not happy about it.

Woosnam, aching and racked with pain from spondylitis in his perenially suspect back, completed a 68 to take a one-shot advantage over Montgomerie into the third round of the Lancôme Trophy at St Nom-la-Bretèche yesterday, then claimed that the machinations of the PGA European Tour's computer were giving Montgomerie too many chances to strike the initial blow.

"One of the things that frustrates me is the fact that Colin always seems to play early on Thursday mornings and I always seem to play late," he said. "It seems to me that, if he can get a good score in on the first morning, it puts me under more pressure.

"I know that for the past three weeks he played early, and he's played early eight or nine times this season. I don't know if that's the draw or if he has asked for it. I know they always try to split us up, but he always seems to have the early start. I have not asked about it — but I'm going to."

Woosnam, who shares the lead with Jesper Parnevik on 135, five under par, has the glint of battle in his eyes. A long career has obviously not dulled his ambition, and he would like nothing more than to put a spoke in Montgomerie's wheel as he attempts to finish top of the money-list for the fourth successive year.

"Yes, I'm determined about the order of merit," Woosnam said. "Somebody's got to stop him. I'm playing well, so I don't see why I shouldn't have a go."

Woosnam's complaints were met with open delight by Montgomerie, who had a level-par 70, a round saved by an eagle on the 16th and a chip-in from 20 feet for a birdie on the 18th. "Ah, he's worried now," Montgomerie said. "That's great. He doesn't like me going first? I don't have a problem with that. I'm pleased he does."

Montgomerie said that he had not asked for early starts on Thursdays; in fact, if given the choice, he would actually prefer to play late on Thursday and early on Friday. "That way, you're keeping going, so that there's no big gap between playing," he said.

A final, gallant attempt to draw a scintilla of sympathy for Woosnam fell on stony ground. "He's upset about it?" Montgomerie said. "Good. I'm glad he's upset. I'll upset as many people as I need to out there." It was said while wearing a broad grin — but, behind the smile, there lurked more than the suspicion of a winner's snarl.

The man to gain from all this frantic jockeying for position could yet be Parnevik, who had a 69. "They're both playing so well," he said. "Every time they play they have a tournament within a tournament. It might be good for me."

Indeed it might. The generally held assumption here seems to be that the £108,330 on offer to the winner will go either to Montgomerie or Woosnam. It would be a kind of poetic justice if somebody else nipped in and grabbed the prize from under their noses. Watch the Swede with the upturned brim on his cap — he could yet spoil the party.

PARIS SCORES

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

LEADING QUALIFIERS: 135: I Woosnam 67, 68; J Parnevik (Swe) 66, 69. 136: P Baker 67, 69; S Grappasonni (It) 69, 67; R Drummond 68, 68, C Montgomerie 66, 70 137: C Rocca (It) 68, 69. 138: A Coltart 66, 72. B Langer (Ger) 67, 71, D Howell 67, 71; J Spence 65, 73. 139: A Lebouc (Fr) 69, 70; P Broadhurst 68, 71, M A Jiménez (Sp) 68, 71. 140: R Muntz (Holl) 74, 66; S Cage 66, 74; P Eales 71, 69, S Torrance 68, 72. 141: H Clark 67, 74, M Roe 68, 73; S Ames (Trin) 75, 66; P Haugsrud (Nor) 71, 70; D Clarke 67, 74; C Mason 73, 68 142: S Luna (Sp) 72, 70; S Strüver (Ger) 72, 70; A Oldcorn 73, 69; C Beck (US) 70, 72; E Romero (Arg) 67, 75; P Harrington 68, 74; I Garrido (Sp) 73, 69; B Lane 69, 73; R Davis (Aus) 70, 72. 143: M Farry (Fr) 71, 72; P Sjoland (Swe) 74, 69; M Davis 71, 72; D Gilford 75, 68; A Sherborne 72, 71; M Gates 76, 67; R Goosen (SA) 72, 71; J Lomas 74, 69; F Tarnaud (Fr) 71, 72; P Mitchell 70, 73, M Campbell (NZ) 72, 71.

CRICKET: ATTACKING INSTINCTS CURBED IN EFFORT TO STAY IN TITLE CHASE

Surrey quick to accept slow torture

By Alan Lee
Cricket Correspondent

CARDIFF (second day of four): Surrey, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 91 runs behind Glamorgan

SURREY like to do things in a hurry. Their cricketing vocabulary scarcely recognises attrition, so the six hours that they batted at Sophia Gardens yesterday, chipping out runs with painstaking care, must have seemed like a confinement in the dentist's chair. To remain involved in the title race, however, there was no other way.

The Cardiff pitch is a slow torture to Surrey, for it diminishes their natural game with bat and ball. In their less stoical days, they would have perished playing cavalier strokes, but they settled for the anathema of the long crawl, an essential purgatory in their quest to do no worse than draw this penultimate game.

Even before play resumed, Surrey had accepted that maximum points for Leicestershire, the leaders, was a brisk formality at Durham. Alec Stewart, the Surrey captain, thus adjusted his sights to a minimum of nine points from this fixture, so that the championship remains accessible if they win their final game and Leicestershire are beaten.

To that end, they are well-placed. Graham Thorpe, batting with rare restraint, and Nadeem Shahid shored up the innings against the threat of two probing spin bowlers on a dustbowl. Surrey should now achieve parity, or something close, and must then hope that the pitch does not deteriorate markedly when they bat again on Monday.

By then they will have the incalculable boost of a trophy secured, provided that they win the Sunday league fixture tomorrow, and it is not yet beyond them to win this game, too. Their bowling, however, is too one-dimensional for pitches of this nature and they needed seven overs with the new ball yesterday to take the final Glamorgan wicket.

The early overs of the reply were no more than a prologue before the introduction of spin. Robert Croft, whose every appearance here has attracted applause, such is his sudden elevation to national hero, appeared for the tenth over and immediately stifled shotmaking. In his eleventh over, and with only 14 runs against him, he made the breach.

Bicknell, who had survived two confident leg-before appeals, was cleverly drawn down the pitch and routinely stumped. In the next over Butcher was smartly taken, low at leg slip, off the developing left-arm spin of Dean Cosker. Surrey were rocking.

Thorpe's usual response is to attack and, briefly, so he did. He cut Croft voraciously before settling for self-preservation. He managed to run out his captain, calling for a non-existent single to James at cover, but then added 99 with the impressively-organised Shahid before his three-hour vigil ended with a slip catch off Watkin.

A third batting point is the first of Surrey's priorities this morning.

Laney keeps the Kent attack at bay

By Pat Gibson

JASON LANEY, the Hampshire opening batsman, showed why many thought that he was unlucky not to be chosen for the England A tour of Australia by frustrating Kent in their effort to maintain an outside chance of winning the county championship.

Laney, 23, defied some hostile bowling from McCague and Headley to score his fourth century in his first full season, completing 1,000 runs on the way. His 105 took him a little more than four hours, contained 18 fours and helped Hampshire to reach 249 for five in reply to Kent's 445.

The day had started brightly enough for Kent. Llong, with a career-best 130, and Ealham, with 74, his highest score of the season, took their fifth-wicket stand to 173, but then they lost their last six wickets for 23 in nine overs.

Kent did not bowl or field as well as they would have liked, either, and, when Smith went for 60 off the last ball of the day, from Ealham, Hampshire were only 47 runs short of saving the follow-on.

Gooch and Law let bowlers off hook

By Ivo Tennant

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are five runs ahead of Essex

TALK about a curate's egg of an innings. Graham Gooch made 82, displaying the form that he has been in all season, and Stuart Law showed the imperious disregard of a top-class Australian batsman, yet Essex ultimately had something of a struggle to gain maximum batting points. Sussex, whose lead amounted to just three runs, survived the two overs that they were left with before the close.

Nothing seemed more certain than that Gooch and Law would make centuries. If they were not both intensely professional cricketers, it would be tempting to say that they found the bowling to be less than challenging. One drove a near half-volley from Kirtley straight back to him and the other lofted Phillips, who is almost as new to the first-class game, straight to mid-off.

Gooch is the leading run-scorer in the country with 1,708. He hit 13 fours and not one of them was anything other than a decidedly meaty blow. Law struck the ball with such disdain that it was hard to imagine that he would not make an even more substantial score than he did. His 64 included nine fours.

So it was important that others contributed if Essex were to obtain four batting points. Hussain added 44, also without undue concern on this easy pitch, but he, too, contrived to lose his wicket, chasing a wide one from Drakes. Irani struck 43 in his uninhibited way and Rollins, the wicketkeeper, came up with one or two exquisite drives in his 27.

That Essex gained their final batting point was down to Cowan and Such, who made 52 for the ninth wicket. It was as much fun for the crowd as it was excruciating for the bowlers, Cowan striking sixes off Kirtley and Phillips. Assuming that Sussex do not collapse today, as is their wont in their second innings, there should be quite a finish on Monday.

Gough back in full swing for Yorkshire

By Jack Bailey

IT WAS quite like old times as Yorkshire swept Nottinghamshire aside to win by an innings and six runs. For a time it looked as though Nottinghamshire would make Yorkshire work hard for victory. They took the last eight first-innings Yorkshire wickets for 101 runs, and limited their lead to 123. During a shower-scattered afternoon they had reduced that by 53 runs without losing a wicket. Then it all fell apart.

Pollard and Robinson were settled when White had his first bowl of the match on a rain-freshened wicket. He gained leg-before decisions against Robinson and Archer and then bowled Pollard.

This opened the door for Gough, who, bowling a full length and gaining reverse swing, scythed through the Nottinghamshire middle-order during a devastating spell of 20 balls in which he took four wickets for six runs.

Gough then needed less than two overs of the extra half hour to complete the victory and return figures of six for 36.

YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Essex v Sussex

CHELMSFORD (second day of four): Sussex, with all second-innings wickets in hand, are five runs ahead of Essex

SUSSEX: First Innings

N J Lenham c Grayson b Such	55
C W J Athey lbw b Cowan	6
K Greenfield b Such	36
*A P Wells lbw b Grayson	122
K Newell b Irani	11
V C Drakes run out	19
†P Moores c Gooch b Law	13
I D K Salisbury b Irani	70
D R Law c Cowan b Such	0
N C Phillips not out	15
R J Kirtley c Law b Cowan	1
Extras (lb 15)	15
Total (102.1 overs)	383

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-95, 3-112, 4-135, 5-183, 6-248, 7-324, 8-329, 9-382.

BOWLING: Ilott 12-1-52-0; Cowan 16 1-2-58-2; Irani 19-3-62-2; Andrew 14-5-45-0; Such 28-6-95-3, Law 5-0-17-1; Grayson 8-1-19-1.

Second Innings

N J Lenham not out	0
C W J Athey not out	0
Extras (nb 2)	2
Total (no wkt)	2

BOWLING. Cowan 1-0-2-0; Such 1-1-0-0.

ESSEX: First Innings

G A Gooch c and b Kirtley	82
A P Grayson lbw b Salisbury	16
N Hussain c Moores b Drakes	44
S G Law c Lenham b Phillips	64
*P J Prichard lbw b Kirtley	2
R C Irani c Salisbury b Kirtley	43
†R J Rollins c Phillips b Kirtley	27
M C Ilott lbw b Phillips	2
A P Cowan b Salisbury	34
P M Such b Salisbury	19
S J W Andrew not out	4
Extras (b 2, lb 14, w 1, nb 6)	23
Total (99.2 overs)	360

FALL OF WICKETS 1-54, 2-135, 3-167, 4-171, 5-248, 6-268, 7-279, 8-299, 9-351

BOWLING: Drakes 14-2-57-1; Law 11-3-39-0. Kirtley 23-3-94-4, Salisbury 28.2-3-94-3; Phillips 21-4-54-2: Lenham 2-0-6-0

Bonus points: Essex 8 Sussex 8

Umpires: J H Harris and A G T Whitehead

Glamorgan v Surrey

CARDIFF (second day of four) Surrey, with six first-innings wickets in hand, are 91 runs behind Glamorgan

GLAMORGAN: First Innings

S P James c D J Bicknell b M P Bicknell	4
H Morris c Stewart b Lewis	6
D L Hemp lbw b M P Bicknell	47
*M P Maynard c Pearson b Benjamin	82
P A Cottey lbw b D J Bicknell	25
A Dale b Pearson	90
†A D Shaw b Benjamin	19
R D B Croft b Pearson	25
D A Cosker lbw b Julian	0
S L Watkin not out	8
O T Parkin c Stewart b Lewis	12
Extras (lb 9, w 5, nb 32)	46
Total (111.2 overs)	364

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-14, 2-14, 3-123, 4-166, 5-208, 6-279, 7-317, 8-322, 9-336

BOWLING: M P Bicknell 19-8-49-2; Lewis 21.2-2-86-2; Julian 15-3-54-1; Benjamin 20-4-53-2; Pearson 21-6-58-2; D J Bicknell 15-0-54-1

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell st Shaw b Croft	30
M A Butcher c Maynard b Cosker	31
*†A J Stewart run out	10
G P Thorpe c Morris b Watkin	77
N Shahid not out	66
A J Hollioake not out	45
Extras (b 10, lb 2, nb 2)	14
Total (4 wkts, 101 overs)	273

C C Lewis, B P Julian, J E Benjamin, M P Bicknell and R M Pearson to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-69, 2-71, 3-102, 4-201

BOWLING: Watkin 16-4-35-1; Parkin 14-3-55-0; Croft 38-10-84-1; Cosker 25-8-75-1. Dale 8-4-12-0

Bonus points: Glamorgan 5 Surrey 6.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and A Clarkson.

Courtney Walsh, the Gloucestershire captain, took five for 62, including Graeme Hick's wicket and a spell of three in 13 balls, at New Road yesterday, but Worcestershire hit back with an unbeaten 91-run stand between David Leatherdale and Richard Illingworth for the ninth wicket.

Walsh's impressive haul failed to prevent Worcestershire from recovering to 313 for eight off 104 overs in reply to Gloucestershire's 334.

Kent v Hampshire

CANTERBURY (second day of four): Hampshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are 196 runs behind Kent

KENT: First Innings

D P Fulton c Kendall b Stephenson	15
M J Walker lbw b Mascarenhas	30
T R Ward c and b Maru	79
C L Hooper c Maru b Mascarenhas	84
N J Llong c Kendall b Stephenson	130
M A Ealham c White b Mascarenhas	74
M V Fleming c Aymes b Stephenson	7
*†S A Marsh lbw b Stephenson	1
D W Headley c Aymes b Mascarenhas	0
M M Patel b Stephenson	9
M J McCague not out	4
Extras (lb 5, w 1, nb 6)	12
Total	445

Score at 120 overs: 422-4.

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-37, 2-50, 3-187, 4-249, 5-422, 6-422, 7-424, 8-425, 9-431.

BOWLING Mascarenhas 28-7-101-4; Renshaw 26-7-94-0; Bovill 24-7-91-0; Stephenson 36-8-104-5, Maru 12-3-29-1, Whitaker 4-1-21-0

HAMPSHIRE: First Innings

G W White c Patel b McCague	6
J S Laney c Marsh b Ealham	105
P R Whitaker c Hooper b Ealham	18
W S Kendall lbw b Headley	34
R A Smith b Ealham	60
*J P Stephenson not out	6
Extras (lb 20)	20
Total (5 wkts, 75.5 overs)	249

†A N Aymes, D A Mascarenhas, R J Maru, J N B Bovill and S J Renshaw to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS 1-10, 2-74, 3-155, 4-228, 5-249.

BOWLING: McCague 21-5-61-1, Headley 19-4-56-1; Ealham 19.5-7-49-3, Patel 8-0-19-0; Hooper 3-1-16-0; Fleming 5-0-28-0.

Bonus points: Kent 8 Hampshire 2.

Umpires: R Julian and G Sharp.

Middlesex v Somerset

UXBRIDGE (second day of four): Middlesex, with eight first-innings wickets in hand, are 372 runs behind Somerset

SOMERSET: First Innings

*P D Bowler c Shah b Fraser	12
M E Trescothick c Brown b Tufnell	27
P C L Holloway c Tufnell b Johnson	168
R J Harden c Brown b Hewitt	20
K A Parsons c Dutch b Johnson	72
S Lee b Dutch	44
A C Cottam c Brown b Johnson	3
†R J Turner c Hewitt b Hewitt	75
J I D Kerr not out	32
A R Caddick c Tufnell b Dutch	26
K J Shine b Dutch	0
Extras (b 2, lb 4)	6
Total	485

Score at 120 overs: 334-6

FALL OF WICKETS 1-26, 2-42, 3-77, 4-207, 5-283, 6-289, 7-416, 8-432, 9-485

BOWLING: Fraser 29-4-86-1; Johnson 30-5-89-3. Hewitt 33-8-118-2; Tufnell 45-19-86-1, Weekes 28-4-65-0; Dutch 7-2-25-3.

MIDDLESEX: First Innings

P N Weekes not out	51
J C Pooley c Turner b Shine	0
M R Ramprakash c and b Shine	26
O A Shah not out	27
Extras (lb 2, w 1, nb 6)	9
Total (2 wkts, 37 overs)	113

*M W Gatting, †K R Brown, K P Dutch, J P Hewitt, R L Johnson, P C R Tufnell and A R C Fraser to bat

FALL OF WICKETS. 1-8, 2-62.

BOWLING Caddick 13-3-47-0; Shine 10-5-17-2; Kerr 7-0-28-0; Cottam 7-1-10-0

Bonus points: Middlesex 2 Somerset 3.

Umpires. H D Bird and K J Lyons

Northamptonshire v Lancashire

NORTHAMPTON (second day of four): Northamptonshire, with five first-innings wickets in hand, are one run ahead of Lancashire

LANCASHIRE: First Innings

S P Titchard c T M B Bailey b Taylor	0
J E R Gallian b Taylor	113
J P Crawley c Loye b Innes	46
N H Fairbrother c T M B Bailey b Taylor	9
G D Lloyd b Penberthy	17
*M Watkinson c Curran b Snape	46
†W K Hegg b Innes	28
G Chapple lbw b Innes	30
G Yates c Warren b Innes	16
R J Green not out	25
P J Martin c Warren b Taylor	2
Extras (b 9, lb 9, w 2, nb 4)	24
Total (110.1 overs)	356

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-88, 3-110, 4-143, 5-222, 6-266, 7-303, 8-316, 9-337.

BOWLING: Taylor 27 1-6-73-4; Hughes 18-3-72-0; Penberthy 14-4-49-1; Snape 26-6-75-1. Innes 22-3-61-4; R J Bailey 3-0-8-0.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE: First Innings

R J Warren lbw b Green	31
M B Loye c Gallian b Watkinson	90
*R J Bailey lbw b Green	41
K M Curran not out	85
T C Walton c Fairbrother b Yates	52
A L Penberthy c Fairbrother b Martin	28
K J Innes not out	13
Extras (b 3, lb 13)	16
Total (5 wkts, 96 overs)	357

J N Snape, J G Hughes, J P Taylor and †T M B Bailey to bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-73, 2-143, 3-199, 4-258, 5-311.

BOWLING: Martin 23-3-78-1; Chapple 16-3-68-0; Green 14-3-50-2; Yates 19-5-67-1; Gallian 9-3-25-0; Watkinson 15-2-55-1.

Bonus points: Northamptonshire 8 Lancashire 6

Umpires V A Holder and K E Palmer

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

WORCESTER (second day of four) Worcestershire, with two first-innings wickets in hand, are 21 runs behind Gloucestershire

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

D R Hewson c Rhodes b Moody	5
M G N Windows b Shenyar	0
A Symonds lbw b Shenyar	11
R I Dawson c Hick b Moody	0
M A Lynch c Rhodes b Moody	70
M W Alleyne lbw b Leatherdale	149
†R C Russell c Lampitt b Moody	29
R P Davis st Rhodes b Solanki	7
A M Smith c Hick b Moody	30
M C J Ball not out	5
*C A Walsh c Illingworth b Moody	0
Extras (b 4, lb 6, nb 18)	28
Total (113 overs)	334

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-11, 3-13, 4-37, 5-119, 6-189, 7-237, 8-326, 9-326.

BOWLING: Shenyar 13-1-52-2; Moody 35-16-67-6; Lampitt 22-4-83-0; Leatherdale 12-3-47-1; Illingworth 19-6-52-0; Solanki 12-7-23-1

WORCESTERSHIRE: First Innings

T S Curtis lbw b Smith	20
W P C Weston lbw b Alleyne	28
G A Hick c Windows b Walsh	54
V S Solanki b Walsh	41
D A Leatherdale not out	66
*T M Moody b Walsh	0
K R Spiring run out	12
†S J Rhodes b Walsh	12
S R Lampitt b Walsh	5
R K Illingworth not out	43
Extras (b 2, lb 13, w 1, nb 16)	32
Total (8 wkts, 104 overs)	313

A Shenyar to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-34, 2-60, 3-154, 4-165, 5-165, 6-194, 7-216, 8-222.

BOWLING: Walsh 20-3-62-5; Smith 12-4-32-1; Alleyne 24-5-70-1; Davis 20-7-47-0; Ball 11-4-40-0; Symonds 17-3-47-0

Bonus points. Worcestershire 7 Gloucestershire 6

Umpires: J H Hampshire and R Palmer.

Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire

SCARBOROUGH (second day of four) Yorkshire (23pts) beat Nottinghamshire (4) by an innings and six runs

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: First Innings 187

Second Innings

P R Pollard b Stemp	30
R T Robinson lbw b White	27
G F Archer lbw b White	1
*P Johnson c White b Gough	14
M P Dowman b Gough	0
C L Cairns b Gough	4
†W M Noon b Gough	4
R T Bates st Blakey b Stemp	8
M N Bowen b Gough	7
J P Hart not out	0
J A Afford c Blakey b Gough	0
Extras (b 4, lb 10, nb 8)	22
Total	117

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-54, 2-62, 3-64, 4-65, 5-92, 6-93, 7-98, 8-118, 9-118

BOWLING: Gough 16.3-4-36-6; Silverwood 7-1-14-0; Hartley 9-3-15-0; Stemp 16-5-23-2; White 6-1-15-2.

YORKSHIRE: First Innings

M D Moxon b Cairns	42
M P Vaughan c Johnson b Cairns	37
*D Byas b Bates	56
A McGrath c Archer b Bowen	63
R A Kettleborough c Robinson b Afford	11
C White c Robinson b Cairns	23
†R J Blakey c Noon b Cairns	15
D Gough c and b Cairns	4
P J Hartley b Afford	14
C E W Silverwood not out	0
R D Stemp b Cairns	4
Extras (b 3, lb 6, nb 32)	41
Total (82.4 overs)	310

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-96, 2-113, 3-210, 4-249, 5-249, 6-286, 7-290, 8-306, 9-306.

BOWLING: Cairns 22.4-2-110-6, Bowen 17-2-68-1; Hart 18-7-51-0; Bates 12-5-33-1; Dowman 2-1-8-0, Afford 11-1-33-2.

Umpires. J W Holder and P Willey.

First Test match

Sri Lanka v Zimbabwe

COLOMBO (third day of five) Zimbabwe, with all second-innings wickets standing, are 184 runs behind Sri Lanka

SRI LANKA: First Innings 349 (A Ranatunga 75, R S Kaluwitharana 71, A P Gurusinha 52)

ZIMBABWE: First Innings

G W Flower c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	0
M H Dekker lbw b Vaas	10
*A D R Campbell c Mahanama b Vaas	12
†A Flower c Ranatunga b Dharmasena	2
G J Whittall lbw b Silva	39
C B Wishart c Vaas b Silva	51
H K Olonga c Tillekeratne b Muralitharan	1
C N Evans c Kaluwitharana b Vaas	9
P A Strang b Muralitharan	6
A R Whittall c Dharmasena b Silva	0
H H Streak not out	0
Extras (b 4, lb 4, nb 4, w 2)	14
Total	145

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-15, 3-21, 4-45, 5-103, 6-105, 7-123, 8-138, 9-145

BOWLING: Vaas 22-3-73-4; Gurusinha 3-1-3-0; Dharmasena 9-3-23-1, Muralitharan 24-9-28-2; Silva 14.4-9-10-3

Second Innings

G W Flower not out	13
M H Dekker not out	6
Extras (w 1)	1
Total (no wkt)	20

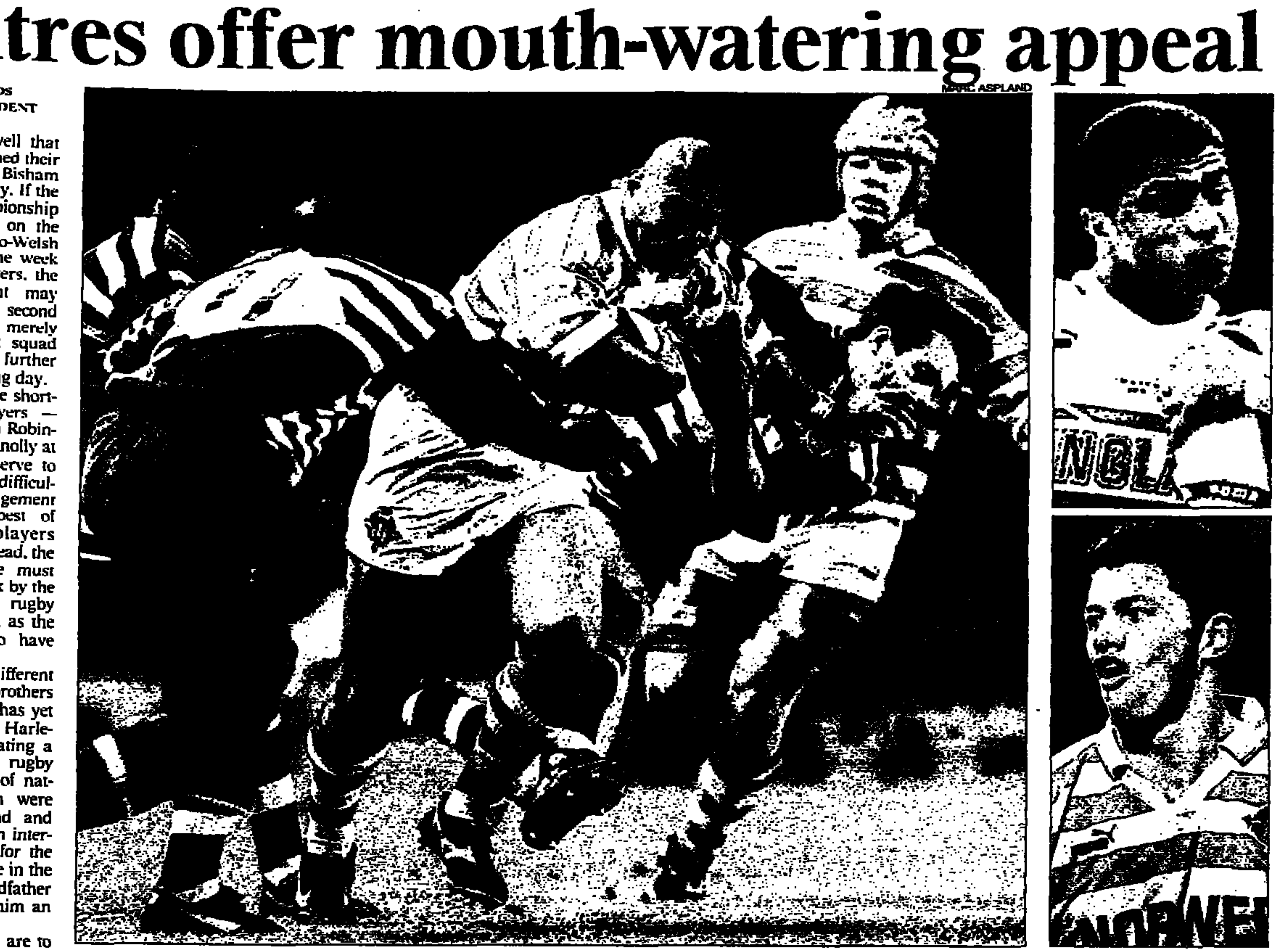
BOWLING: Vaas 4.1-0-15-0; Gurusinha 2-0-4-0; de Silva 2-1-1-0.

Umpires. S A Bucknor (West Indies) and B C Cooray (Sri Lanka).

RUGBY UNION: IMPACT OF LEAGUE PLAYERS MAY GIVE ENGLAND CAUSE FOR SECOND THOUGHTS

Centres offer mouth-watering appeal

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent


MARC ASPLAND

Tuigamala, bursting through in typical style, will today run into Robinson, top right, and Henry Paul, his former Wigan club-mates

PERHAPS it is as well that England have postponed their training session at Bisham Abbey next Wednesday. If the Courage Clubs Championship matches today build on the impact made in Anglo-Welsh competition during the week by rugby league players, the national management may well be having second thoughts, and not merely because their present squad seems to be drifting further away with each passing day.

Yet the advent of the short-term contracted players — Henry Paul and Jason Robinson at Bath, Gary Connolly at Harlequins — only serve to increase England's difficulties. The team management wants to see the best of English-qualified players breaking through; instead, the development of some must inevitably be held back by the presence of former rugby league players as well as the overseas players who have flooded into England.

It would be slightly different if the likes of the Paul brothers (Robbie, the younger, has yet to make his debut for Harlequins) were contemplating a long-term future in rugby union and a change of national affiliation. Both were born in New Zealand and Henry has made seven international appearances for the Kiwis, but the presence in the family tree of a grandfather from Liverpool gives him an English qualification.

At 22, his best years are to come, but in which code of rugby? Sensibly, he has warded off probing questions about a possible international career with England by pointing out that, thus far, he has played only one game of union. "I admire the All Blacks, but, realistically, New Zealanders playing overseas won't get picked which, in a way, is a credit to the New Zealand management," Paul said.

"If England showed any interest in me, that would be a terrific compliment, but I can't look any further down the track. At the moment, John Hall [the Bath director of rugby] is showing a lot of faith in Jason and me by playing us with the guys who have done it week in and week out in first grade. Now it's up to us to show why he has done that."

Indeed, Paul takes the place against Wasps today of Phil de Glanville, the Bath captain, who deserves a rest and the chance for an ankle injury to recover. Rest is going to be as important in the professional era as play. Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, believes that his club will be involved in 41 matches if they are successful in all competitions this season — and that makes no allowance for international rugby. "In three games so far, we have given first-team places to 27 players, but I would hope that no one plays more than 22 or 23 games," Ashton said.

The upshot is a mouth-watering collection of centre pairings on show today that would grace any international. The older Paul teams up with Jeremy Guscott, briefly Bath's captain, against Va'aiga Tuigamala and Nick Greenstock, the 1995 young player of the year, and Harlequins display Connolly in tandem with Will Carling against a London Irish pair not so far short of representative honours, Rob Henderson and Paul Flood.

The introduction of Tuigamala is the only change from the XV which played so attractively against Saracens last Sunday and offers Greenstock a wonderful opportunity to learn more of his trade. Tuigamala, 27, won 19 caps for New Zealand before joining Wigan nearly three years ago and has, according to Nigel Melville, settled into union again with ease. "We won't just be sending him banging at Henry Paul and Jeremy Guscott, we have a whole range of plans for him," Melville, the Wasps director of rugby, said.

Melville has even acquired one of Bath's players, having lured Andy Reed away from a prospective career in the second division with London Scottish. Reed, the Scotland lock, has at last thrown off the lingering effects of a back injury and will join Damian Cronin, a fellow Scot and British Isles lock, at Wasps.

Elsewhere, Northampton restore Paul Grayson to stand-off half against Bristol, while Leicester give Lewis Moody a league debut at flanker against Orrell after Eric Miller's call-up to the Irish XV which plays Leinster at Donnybrook tomorrow. Moody, at 18 years and 94 days, is the youngest player to appear for Leicester in the competition and he is joined by Gary Becconsall after injuries remove two other scrum halves, Austin Healey and Aadel Kardooni.

Mike James, the Swansea chairman, has resigned for personal reasons after six years in the post, on the eve of his club's derby match with Dunvant. Both clubs are unbeaten in the Welsh League, but Swansea, humbled by Bath in midweek, restore a swathe of internationals including Stuart Evans, Christian Loader, Paul Arnold and Stuart Davies to the pack.

The Welsh Rugby Union is to offer its leading clubs £300,000 each over the season in an effort to help them cope with the financial demands of professionalism and to keep them from an alliance with the top English clubs.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Bentley poised to agree Newcastle deal

JOHN BENTLEY, the Halifax Blue Sox wing, has withdrawn from Great Britain's rugby league tour of Papua New Guinea, Fiji and New Zealand because he is about to sign a contract to play rugby union with Newcastle. Bentley, 29, will play for the Courage Clubs Championship second division side until the start of the 1997 Super League season.

Neither the Blue Sox nor Newcastle were prepared to comment on Bentley's decision, but it is understood that he has agreed a a similar deal to those agreed with union clubs by Gary Connolly, Va'aiga Tuigamala and Henry Paul.

☐ Sheffield Eagles have signed a ten-year agreement with Sheffield United to play their Super League games at Bramall Lane. The deal begins at the start of next season.

Hamed targets Barrera

BOXING: Naseem Hamed could meet Marco Antonio Barrera, the unbeaten Mexican, in March in Great Britain (Srikumar Sen writes). Barrera is believed to be the biggest threat to Hamed, the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight champion from Sheffield.

Yesterday Frank Warren, Hamed's promoter, offered £1.2 million for Barrera, the WBO super-bantamweight champion, to box in Britain. Barrera's camp countered with £1.75 million for them to meet in Los Angeles.

Sciandri squeezed out

CYCLING: A stage victory in the Tour of Spain continues to elude Max Sciandri, of Great Britain, who twice took the lead in the final two kilometres of the 150-kilometre seventh stage, from Malaga to Marbella, yesterday. Sciandri made his final effort inside the last kilometre and went clear by ten metres, but he was eventually beaten by Fabio Baldato, the overall leader, and Giovanni Lombardi, both of Italy.

Makinen well placed

MOTOR RALLYING: Tommi Makinen, of Finland, is well placed to secure the world championship after the opening day of the Rally Australia. Makinen, one of five drivers in second place, will become world champion if he wins the event and Carlos Sainz, of Spain, finishes lower than second. Sainz, however, is leading the field. Colin McRae, the reigning champion, is in the pack in second place.

Prean snubs England

TABLE TENNIS: Carl Prean, who refused to play for England all of last season, will not play in England's opening match of the European League season today, against Turkey at St Austell. Prean says that he has club commitments in the German *Bundesliga* that take priority over England's campaign to win promotion to the super division.

Doohan closes on title

MOTORCYCLING: Michael Doohan, the 500cc world champion, hopes not only to retain his title at the Catalan Grand Prix this weekend, but also to put Alex Criville in his place. Second will be enough for Doohan, from Australia, to take his third consecutive title, but he is keen to reassert control after Criville, from Spain, who grew up close to the Montmelo circuit, won in Austria and the Czech Republic.

FOR THE RECORD

BASEBALL

AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York 12 Detroit 3; Cleveland 11 California 2; Chicago 11 Baltimore 3; Seattle 8 Kansas City 5; Minnesota 4 Oakland 3 (in 12 innings); Milwaukee 15 Texas 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Houston 4 Philadelphia 1; Colorado 16 Atlanta 8; Montreal 5 Florida 4; Los Angeles 4 St Louis 1; Pittsburgh 10 San Francisco 4

BOWLS

BROADSTAIRS: Open tournament: Quarter-finals: **Men's singles:** N Bishop bt F Cuthbert 21-20; D Hoddinott bt P Wathen 21-16; A Morton bt M Winckles 21-15; K Weyand bt F Dean 21-16. **Women's singles:** E Wathen bt B Tungate 21-15; B Smith bt G Burke 21-6; J Stern bt I Grace 21-20; D Harrington bt E Emmingham 21-14

NOTTINGHAM: English Bowling Association Over-55 championships: Singles: Semi-finals: E Furze (Somerset) bt K Ashby (Warwickshire) 21-7; G Tyas (Surrey) bt W Hayward (Sussex) 21-14. Final: Tyas bt Furze 21-18. Pairs: Semi-finals: K Wardle and R Burch (Devon) bt P Pinnegar and R Hennessy (Gloucestershire) 16-14; B and A Walsham (Lincolnshire) bt A Harris and J Swinburne (Wiltshire) 20-17. Final: Walsham and Walsham bt Wardle and Burch 17-16

SWINDON: English Women's Bowling Association Over-55 championships: Singles: Semi-finals: P Jones (Surrey) bt J Hodson (Cornwall) 21-20; M Dyer (Somerset) bt J Byford (Essex) 21-18. Final: Dyer bt Jones 21-14. Pairs: Semi-finals: W Sowerby and A Reeves (Cumbria) bt B Green and E West (Kent) 22-12; D Woodley and W Anderson (Wiltshire) bt E Housden and A Young (Huntingdonshire) 22-13. Final: Woodley and Anderson bt Sowerby and Reeves 21-20

CRICKET

SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP (final day of three): **Southampton:** Hampshire 215 and 228 (L Botham 50); Leicestershire 489 (S Richardson 78, I Sutcliffe 58, J Dakin 59, D Williamson 69). Leicestershire won by an innings and 46 runs. **Old Trafford:** Warwickshire 321 and 306 (M J Powell 94; G Keedy 6-70); Lancashire 517 (P C McKeown 161, A Flintoff 103, P R Sleep 85, M D Edmond 5-123) and 14-0. Lancashire won by ten wickets (second day of three). **Trent Bridge:** Middlesex 363-7 dec (P E Wellings 171) and 85-0; Nottinghamshire 327-7 dec (C M Tolley 114). **Hove:** Yorkshire 356 (B Parker 173, A C Morris 58, A D Edwards 4-68) and 56-1; Sussex 300-7 dec (D A Radford 101, A D Edwards 57). **The Oval:** Glamorgan 256 (A J Dalton 68, N M Kendrick 61) and 198-5 (A W Evans 86); Surrey 321 (J D Ratcliffe 65, J A Knott 62, A J Tudor 50). **Chesterfield:** Derbyshire 104-5; Kent 301 (N R Taylor 78, G R Cowdrey 72, S C Willis 59)

CYCLING

TOUR OF SPAIN: Seventh stage (Malaga to Marbella, 171km): 1, F Baldato (It) MG-Technogym 4hr 8min 54sec; 2, G Lombardi (It) Polti; 3, M Sciandri (GB) Motorola; 4, L Jalabert (Fr) ONCE; 5, M Apollonio (It) Scrigno all same time. Overall standings (after seven stages): 1, Baldato 30hr 33min 2sec; 2, Jalabert at 22sec; 3, Lombardi at 26; 4, J Werner (Ger) Telekom at 44; 5, L Pavanello (It) Aki-Gimpiemme at 50.

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: First round, first leg: My-Pa 47 (Fin) 0 Liverpool 1; FC Vaduz (Liech) 0 Paris Saint-Germain 4; Lokomotiv Moscow 1 Varteks Varazdin (Cro) 0; Dynamo Batumi (Geo) 1 PSV Eindhoven (Holl) 1; Aarhus (Den) 1 Olimpija Ljubljana (Slovenia) 1; Gloria Bistrita (Rom) 1 Fiorentina 1; Cercle Bruges 3 FK Brann (Nor) 2; Sion (Switz) 2 Niva Vinnitza (Ukr) 0; Constructorul Chisinau (Moldavia) 0 Galatasaray 1; AEK Athens 1 Chemlon (Slovakia) 0; Nimes 3 Kispest Honved (Hun) 1; Kaiserslautern 1 Red Star Belgrade 0; Sturm Graz (Austria) 2 Sparta Prague 2; Reykjavik 0 Solna (Swe) 1; Barcelona 2 AEK Larnaca (Cyp) 0; Benfica 5 Ruch Chorzow (Pol) 0

FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Scarborough 5 Harrogate Town 0; Chorley 1 Hallam 2; Cradley 1 Gornal 3; Thetford 1 Ipswich 4; Whitstable 1 Hastings 1; Lewes 0 Bracknell 3; Bristol 8 Odd Down 0; Cambridge City 11 Eynesbury 1.

SCHOOLS MATCHES: Inter-town challenge: Blackburn 1 Bolton 2; Nottingham 1 Doncaster 0

SUPER CUP: Estudiantes (Arg) 2 Colo Colo (Chile) 4 (at La Plata); Olimpia (Par) 2

GOLF

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR SCHOOL: Pre-qualifiers, third and final rounds (GB and Ireland unless stated): **Slaley Hall:** 217: S Thompson 72, 72, 73; G Houston 72, 73, 72. 218: R Winchester 72, 72, 74; A Haglund (Swe) 72, 70, 76. 220: * E Little 76, 70, 74; J Rystrom (Swe) 71, 75, 74. 221: A Reid 78, 68, 75; R Victor (Fr) 74, 72, 75. 222: D Tapping 74, 79, 69; S Henderson 76, 72, 74; C Post (Den) 72, 71, 79. 223: N Scott-Smith 75, 79, 69 (after play-off). **Five Lakes:** 212: D Nouailhac (Fr) 68, 69, 75. 213: D McKenzie (Aus) 71, 71, 71. 214: P Sherman 71, 72, 71; J Peck (US) 70, 70, 74; J Wilshire 71, 72, 71. 215: M Watson 71, 78, 74. 216: M Guzman (Arg) 71, 72, 73; C Whitelaw (SA) 69, 72, 75; M Thompson 74, 67, 75. 217: D Lee 71, 72, 74; J Remesy (Fr) 73, 70, 74; D Parker 70, 74, 73. * denotes amateur.

GAINESVILLE, Virginia: President's Cup: United States leads Internationals 4-1 (US names first): F Couples and D Love bt G Norman and R Allenby 2 and 1; S Hoch and M Brooks lost to E Els and M McNulty 2 holes; P Mickelson and C Pavin bt V Singh and M Ozaki 2 and 1; M O'Meara and D Duval bt S Elkington and F Nobilo 3 and 2; T Lehman and S Stricker bt N Price and P Senior 4 and 3.

COAL VALLEY, Illinois: PGA Quad City Classic: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 65: L Nelson, C Rymer, J Gullion. 66: D Watson, E Fiori. 67: K Fergus, F Funk, B Chamblee, S McCarron, J Maggert, T Smith. Other scores: 69: T Woods. 71: R Zokol (Can), D Barr (Can). 72: D Toms (SA), S Rintoul (Aus). 73: W Westner (SA). 74: A Forsbrand (Swe)

KENT, Washington: LPGA tournament: Leading first-round scores (US unless stated): 65: P Sheehan. 66: S Barrett, K Webb (Aus). 67: T Barrett. 68: C Pierce (GB), H Kobayashi (Japan), K Saiki. Other scores: 69: G Graham (Can). 70: J Stephenson (Aus), D Richard (Can), D Coe-Jones (Can), M Figueras-Dotti (Sp). 71: L Neumann (Swe), C Nilsmark (Swe), K Lunn (Aus), A Dibos (Sp), E Dahllof (Swe). 77: A Sorenstam (Swe)

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Group D: Medway 1 Bracknell 13

WORLD CUP: Canada 2 United States 5 (in Montreal)

MOTOR RALLYING

PERTH: Rally Australia: First day: Leading standings (after first stage): 1, C Sainz (Sp) Ford Escort 1min 35sec; 2 equal, C McRae (GB) Subaru Impreza, K Eriksson (Swe) Subaru Impreza, P Liatti (It) Subaru Impreza, B Thiry (Bel) Ford Escort (Bel) and T Makinen (Fin) Mitsubishi Lancer 1:36

ISLE OF MAN: Manx International Rally: Second day: Leading standings (after 12 stages): 1, A Schwarz (Monte Carlo) Toyota Celica GT4 1hr 24min 29sec; 2, G Evans (Powys) Ford Escort RS2000 1:25:49; 3, M Higgins (Carno) Nissan Sunny GTi 1:27:15; 4, N Simpson (Colne) Ford Escort RS2000 1:30:27; 5, K Gottlicher (Vienna) Ford Escort Cosworth 1:30:53.

SAILING

HAYLING ISLAND: Ronstan International 505 national championships: Sixth race: 1, G Carveth and I Mitchell; 2, H Cisneros and L Crispin; 3, I Pinnell and M Darling. Overall positions (after six races): 1, J Robinson and B Marsterman; 2, I Barker and D Cripps; 3, Carveth and Mitchell; 4, Pinnell and Darling; 5, Cisneros and Crispin; 6, R Lark and N Fulcher

SNOOKER

BANGKOK: Asian Classic: Quarter-finals: A McManus (Scot) bt S Davis (Eng) 5-4; B Morgan (Eng) bt A Drago (Malta) 5-4

TENNIS

WEST HANTS TC: Bournemouth International Open: Men's singles: Quarter-finals: M Norman (Swe) bt S Bruguera (Sp) 7-5, 1-6, 7-5; J Stoltenberg (Aus) bt G Rusedski (GB) 1-6, 6-1, 6-3; A Costa (Sp) bt D Sapsford (GB) 6-1, 6-1; M-K Goellner (Ger) bt M Zabaleta (Arg) 6-4, 6-1

BUCHAREST: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: C Ruud (Nor) bt D Pescariu (Rom) 6-2, 7-5; C Moya (Sp) bt F Clavet (Sp) 6-2, 6-3; A Pavel (Rom) bt J Novak (Cz) 6-3, 6-2; A Berasategui (Sp) bt I Moldovan (Rom) 6-4, 6-2

BOGOTÁ, Colombia: Men's tournament: Second round: T Muster (Austria) bt B Shelton (US) 6-4, 6-4; R Delgado (Par) bt F Santoro (Fr) 7-6, 6-2; A Hernandez (Mex) bt F Dondo (Uru) 7-5, 6-4; N Lapentti (Ecu) bt W Black (Zim) 6-2, 6-2

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Coventry v Leeds
(2) Derby v Sunderland
(3) Everton v Middlesbrough
(4) Manchester Utd v Nottm Forest
(5) Newcastle v Blackburn
(6) Southampton v Tottenham
(7) West Ham v Wimbledon

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sheff Wed	5	4	0	1	8	5	12
Chelsea	5	3	2	0	8	3	11
Liverpool	5	3	2	0	8	4	11
A Villa	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Man Utd	5	2	3	0	12	5	9
Newcastle	5	3	0	2	7	6	9
Middlesbro	5	2	2	1	12	6	8
Arsenal	5	2	2	1	9	7	8
Leeds	5	2	1	2	5	9	7
Sunderland	5	1	3	1	5	3	6
Nottm F.	5	1	3	1	7	7	6
Derby	5	1	3	1	7	8	6
Wimbledon	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Tottenham	5	1	2	2	4	4	5
Leicester	5	1	2	2	3	5	5
Everton	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
West Ham	5	1	2	2	4	8	5
Southampton	5	0	2	3	5	8	2
Blackburn	5	0	1	4	3	8	1
Coventry	5	0	1	4	1	11	1

Nationwide League
First division

(8) Barnsley v Queens Park Rangers
(9) Birmingham v Stoke
(10) Bolton v Portsmouth
(11) Charlton v Reading
(12) Crystal Palace v Manchester City
(13) Norwich v Southend
(14) Oxford Utd v Bradford
(15) Port Vale v Grimsby
(16) Sheffield Utd v Ipswich
(17) Swindon v Tranmere

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Barnsley	5	5	0	0	13	3	15
Bolton	6	4	1	1	15	9	13
Norwich	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Tranmere	6	4	1	1	8	4	13
Stoke	6	3	2	1	9	9	11
Wolvrhmptn	6	3	2	1	7	4	11
Portsmouth	6	3	1	2	6	6	10
Man City	6	3	0	3	7	6	9
West Brom	5	2	2	1	7	5	8
QPR	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
Sheff Utd	4	2	1	1	9	5	7
Reading	6	2	1	3	9	13	7
* Huddersfld	5	2	1	2	7	6	7
C Palace	6	1	4	1	6	5	7
Swindon	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Ipswich	6	1	3	2	10	10	6
Port Vale	6	1	3	2	5	7	6
Bradford	6	2	0	4	4	8	6
Birmingham	4	1	2	1	5	5	5
Oxford Utd	6	1	1	4	7	8	4
Southend	6	1	1	4	7	14	4
Grimsby	6	1	1	4	7	16	4
Charlton	5	1	1	3	4	6	4
* Oldham	6	0	2	4	5	11	2

** does not include last night's match*

Second division

(18) Brentford v Blackpool
(19) * Bristol Rovers v Watford
(20) Burnley v Wycombe
(21) Crewe v Wrexham
(22) Luton v Chesterfield
(23) Notts County v Millwall
(24) Peterborough v York
(25) Preston v Bournemouth
(26) Rotherham v Bristol City
(27) Shrewsbury v Bury
(28) Stockport v Plymouth
(29) Walsall v Gillingham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	6	5	1	0	14	5	16
Bury	6	4	1	1	11	5	13
Watford	6	4	0	2	8	7	12
Chesterfld	6	4	0	2	5	4	12
Millwall	6	3	2	1	12	8	11
Plymouth	6	3	2	1	12	9	11
Shrewsbury	6	3	2	1	7	6	11
Crewe	6	3	1	2	7	6	10
Blackpool	6	3	1	2	5	5	10
Burnley	6	3	0	3	8	8	9
Luton	6	3	0	3	7	11	9
Bristol R	5	2	2	1	5	5	8
Preston	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
York	6	2	1	3	6	7	7
Gillingham	6	2	1	3	6	8	7
Bristol City	6	2	0	4	9	10	6
Wrexham	4	1	3	0	8	6	6
Peterboro	5	1	3	1	8	8	6
Bournemth	6	2	0	4	7	9	6
Notts Co	5	1	2	2	4	5	5
Wycombe	6	0	4	2	4	6	4
Walsall	5	0	2	3	5	8	2
Stockport	6	0	2	4	1	6	2
Rotherham	6	0	1	5	4	10	1

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Colwyn Bay v Barrow; Runcorn v Blyth Spartans; Spennymoor v Witton. First division: Congleton v Worksop; Droylsden v Whitley Bay; Great Harwood v Atherton LR.

Third division

(30) Colchester v Hull
(31) Darlington v Hereford
(32) Exeter v Brighton
(33) Hartlepool v Wigan
(34) Lincoln v Barnet
(35) Mansfield v Leyton Orient
(36) Northampton v Cambridge Utd
(37) Rochdale v Doncaster
(38) Scarborough v Carlisle
(39) Scunthorpe v Cardiff
(—) Swansea v Fulham
(—) Torquay v Chester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fulham	6	5	0	1	9	4	15
Wigan	6	4	1	1	13	7	13
Carlisle	6	4	1	1	8	3	13
Hull	6	3	3	0	6	3	12
Chester	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
Torquay	6	3	1	2	8	5	10
Hartlepool	6	3	1	2	8	7	10
Scunthorpe	6	3	1	2	6	8	10
Cardiff	6	3	1	2	5	5	10
Scarboro	6	2	3	1	9	7	9
Darlington	6	2	2	2	12	9	8
Camb Utd	6	2	2	2	7	8	8
L Orient	6	2	2	2	4	3	8
Brighton	6	2	1	3	6	10	7
Barnet	6	1	4	1	5	3	7
Swansea	6	2	0	4	9	13	6
Northampton	6	1	3	2	7	6	6
Colchester	6	1	3	2	5	7	6
Lincoln	6	1	2	3	6	10	5
Doncaster	6	1	2	3	5	7	5
Exeter	6	1	2	3	5	8	5
Mansfield	6	0	4	2	2	6	4
Hereford	6	1	1	4	2	8	4
Rochdale	6	0	3	3	3	6	3

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Altrincham v Woking
(—) Kidderminster v Macclesfield
(—) Northwich v Telford
(—) Slough v Bromsgrove

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(40) Aberdeen v Kilmarnock
(41) Dundee Utd v Celtic
(42) Dunfermline v Motherwell
(43) Hibernian v Raith
(—) Rangers v Hearts

First division

(44) Airdrie v Greenock Morton (at Broadwood Stadium, Clyde FC)
(45) East Fife v St Johnstone
(46) Falkirk v Clydebank
(47) Partick v Stirling
(48) St Mirren v Dundee

Second division

(49) Ayr v Clyde
(—) Brechin v Stranraer
(—) Dumbarton v Livingston
(—) Hamilton v Berwick (at Cliftonhill Stadium, Albion FC)
(—) Queen of South v Stenhousemuir

Third division

(—) Alloa v Cowdenbeath
(—) Arbroath v Albion
(—) Forfar v Ross County
(—) Caledonian Thistle v East Stirling
(—) Queen's Park v Montrose

FA CUP: First qualifying round: St Helens v Gateshead, Billingham Town v Dunston FB; Workington v Crook; Buxton v Ossett Town; Oldham v Halifax; Durham v Morpeth. Harrogate Town v Consett; Bishop Auckland v Pickering; Brandon v Morecambe; Gretna v Arnold; Flixton v Bootle, Guiseley v Hucknall; Yorkshire Amateur v Stalybridge Celtic. Ashton United v Harrogate Railway; Netherfield v Nantwich; Accrington Stanley v Ossett Albion; Murton v Frickley; Easington Colliery v Winsford, Willington v Newcastle Town; Bradford Park Avenue v Ashfield. Matlock Town v Leek, Tow Law v Gainsborough, Bridgnorth v Trafford; Eastwood Town v Eccleshill, Hatfield Main v Knowsley; Warrington v Hyde; Garforth v Whitby; Mossley v Burscough; Rossendale v Southport, Burton v Guisborough, Stocksbridge Park Steels v Chester-le-Street, Emley v Selby; Leigh RMI v Alfreton, Radcliffe v Marine; Sheffield v Chadderton; Billingham v Atherton Collieries; Liversedge/Atherton LR v Ilkeston; W Auckland v Bamber Bridge, Blidworth CW v Stapenhill, Curzon Ashton v Evenwood; North Ferriby v Chorley; Lincoln United v Lancaster, Rossington Main v Blakenhall; Bedlington Terriers v Prudhoe; Rocester v Kettering; Hinckley Athletic v Halesowen H; Bedworth v VS Rugby; Atherstone v Cogenhoe; Westfields v Rushden and Diamonds, Stafford v Bilston; Gresley v Chasetown, Wednesfield v Hednesford, Racing Club Warwick v Northampton Spencer; Tamworth v Willenhall; Evesham v Pelsall V, Moor Green v Solihull, Stourbridge v Halesowen Town, Pershore T v Knypersley V, Sandwell v Shepshed D, Maldon v Boston United; Sudbury v Great Yarmouth, Rothwell v Spalding; Bishop's Stortford v Bedford T, Wroxham v King's Lynn, Canvey Island v Haverhill; Grantham v Boston; Cambridge City v Diss, Bury Town v Heybridge Swifts, Wisbech v Newmarket; Raunds T v East Thurrock; Chelmsford v March; Gorleston v Sudbury; Billericay v Woodbridge, Corby v Stamford AFC, Purfleet v Hornchurch; Arlesey Town v Stevenage; Marlow v Braintree; Collier Row and Romford v Halstead; Baldock v Tiptree; Stotfold v Hayes; Hertford v Potters Bar; Chesham v Barking; Grays v Clacton; Brackley v Dagenham and Redbridge, Wembley v Royston, Uxbridge v Clapton, Harrow v Stowmarket, Welwyn Garden v Aylesbury; Barton Rovers v Erith and Belvedere; Edgware v Ford United; Boreham Wood v Tring; London Colney v St Albans, Hampton v Harlow; Hemel Hempstead v Stansted, Yeading v Bowers; Three Bridges v Farnborough; Bracknell v Selsey; Banstead v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Carshalton v Tunbridge Wells; Southwick v Welling, Walton and Hersham v Herne Bay; Horsham v Wealdstone, Dulwich Hamlet v Ashford (Middx); Mile Oak v Dover; Hendon v Croydon; Fisher (London) v Chalfont St Peter; Aldershot Town v Merstham; Ringmer v Chertsey, Molesey v Whitstable, Tonbridge v Northwood; Hastings v Burnham; Redhill v Crawley; Croydon v Egham; St Leonards Stamcroft v Arundel; Bromley v Viking Sports; Horsham YMCA v Sittingbourne; Staines v Folkestone Invicta, Chatham v Burgess Hill, Tooting and Mitcham v Corinthian-Casuals; Fareham v Worcester, Witney v Oxford City, Wimborne v Cove; Buckingham Town v Hungerford, Havant v Bashley; Basingstoke v Gloucester; Thatcham v Bemerton Heath Harlequins, Thame v Lymington AFC; Gosport v Cheltenham, Weymouth v Camberley; Fleet T v Abingdon Town, Salisbury v Godalming and Guildford; Devizes v Bath, Bideford v Melksham; Cirencester Town v Falmouth T, Newport AFC v Mangotsfield; St Blazey v Merthyr Tydfil, Trowbridge v Calne; Weston-super-Mare v Bristol Manor Farm; Forest Green v Torrington, Clevedon v Dorchester, Backwell v Yeovil, Welton v Taunton; Tiverton v Frome

ICIS LEAGUE: Premier division: Kingstonian v Hitchin.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Nuneaton. Southern division: Cinderford v Newport IoW

LEAGUE OF WALES: Caernarfon v Ebbw Vale; Carmarthen Town v Cemaes Bay, Connah's Quay v Aberystwyth, Conwy v Welshpool; Flint Town v Caersws, Holywell v Barry (2.30); Inter Cable-Tel v Porthmadog (2.30); Newtown v Briton Ferry; Rhyl v Ton Pentre.

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Finn Harps v Home Farm (7.30); Sligo v Shelbourne (7.30). Shield Competition: Southern section: Cobh Ramblers v Waterford (7.0); Kilkenny v Limerick (7.15)

SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Bridport v Brislington; Chard v Odd Down; Chippenham v Westbury; Elmore v Paulton R

UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Desborough v Wellingborough, Eynesbury v Wootton, Kempston v Newport Pagnell, Long Buckby v Holbeach, M Blackstone v Ford Sports, Potton v Bourne

PRESS & JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Fraserburgh, Buckie Thistle v Fort William; Deveronvale v Clachnacuddin; Elgin v Cove, Huntly v Forres Mechanics, Keith v Lossiemouth; Nairn County v Peterhead; Wick Academy v Rothes

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chipstead v Cobham; Cranleigh v Bedfont, Farnham v Feltham; Hartley Wintney v Netherne; Raynes Park Vale v Ash, Reading v Walton Casuals, Sandhurst v Westfield

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Harefield; Beaconsfield SYCOB v Tottenham Omada; Brook House v Cockfosters; Hanwell v St Margaretsbury, Hillingdon Boro v Haringey, Islington St Marys v Brimsdown; Waltham Abbey v Amersham

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bedford v Milton Keynes; Harpenden v Hoddesdon, Langford v Letchworth.

ENDSLEIGH INSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Handrahan Timbers v Alvechurch, Highgate v Wellesbourne; Massey Ferguson v Studley BKL; Richmond Swifts v Worcester

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Abingdon United; Didcot v Kintbury, Endsleigh v Highworth; Fairford v Carterton, Lambourn Sports v Banbury; North Leigh v Bicester, Tuffley v Wantage

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: South Shields v RTM Newcastle, Stockton v Seaham Red Star

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE CUP: First round: Barnet v Southampton (11.0); Bournemouth v Wycombe (11.0), Bristol Rovers v Chelsea (11.0); Cambridge Utd v Luton Town (11.0); Colchester Utd v Millwall (11.0), Ipswich v Crystal Palace (11.0); Leyton Orient v Southend Utd (11.0); Norwich City v Arsenal (10.30); Oxford Utd v Fulham (10.30); Queens Park Rangers v Brentford (10.45), Reading v Bristol City (11.0), Swindon v Portsmouth (11.0); Watford v Brighton (11.0), West Ham v Charlton Ath (11.0), Wimbledon v Gillingham (10.30)

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Vauxhall GM; Clitheroe v Prescot, Darwen v Kidsgrove, Eastwood H v Glossop North End; Holker Old Boys v Salford; Maine Road v Penrith

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Clacton v Bury Town, Great Yarmouth v Fakenham; Harwich and Parkeston v March, Lowestoft v Hadleigh U, Soham v Halstead; Stowmarket v Newmarket, Sudbury Res v Diss; Tiptree v Felixstowe P and T, Warboys v Wroxham, Watton v Gorleston

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier division: Blowich S v Wolverhampton United, Cradley Town v Walsall Wood; Darlaston v Brierley Hill T; Ettingshall Ht v Ludlow T; Hill Top R v Gornal; Malvern T v Stafford T, Tividale v Wolverhampton C; Lye Town v Stourport S

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham Ramblers v East Ham; Great Wakering v Basildon U; Ilford v Southend Manor; Sawbridgeworth v Hullbridge Sports; Eton Manor v Concord.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Andover v Christchurch, BAT v Eastleigh; Bournemouth v Totton, East Cowes v Aerostructures, Petersfield v Brockenhurst, Portsmouth v Cowes Sports; Ryde Sports v Romsey, Whitchurch v Downton.

FA CARLSBERG VASE: First qualifying round, second replay: Birstall v Holwell Sports

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Blowich Town v Boldmere St M; Bridgnorth v Blakenhall; Stapenhill v Knypersley V; Pershore T v Oldbury U; Rocester v Stratford T, Shifnal T v Halesowen Town, W Mid Police v Rushall O, Willenhall v Barwell.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Denaby v Belper Town; Glasshoughton Welfare v Armthorpe Welfare; Hallam v Thackley; Hatfield Main v Pontefract Cols. Maltby MW v Brigg Town.

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Liverpool v Arsenal (at Anfield, 2.0).

SUBURBAN LEAGUE. Premier division: Farnborough v Slough, Sutton United v Aldershot Town; Whyteleafe v Kingstonian.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Furness, Canterbury v Woolwich; Deal v Cray; Faversham v Sheppey; Greenwich v Crockenhill, Hythe v Lordswood; Slade Green v Ramsgate; Thamesmead v Corinthian

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30): Northern merit: Blackburn v Blackpool, Kirkby Knowsley v Bolton. Inter-association: Derby v Coventry; Leeds v Manchester; West Sussex v Havant, Walsall v St Helens

CRICKET

Britannic Assurance county championship

10.30, third day of four, 104 overs minimum

DERBY: Derbyshire v Warwickshire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Sussex
CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Surrey
CANTERBURY: Kent v Hampshire
UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Somerset
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Lancashire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 2.30

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Oldham St Annes; Heworth v Lock Lane; Mayfield v Beverley; Saddleworth v West Hull; Woolston v Egremont. First division: Barrow Island v Askam, Blackbrook v Eastmoor; Moldgreen v Millom; Oulton v Leigh East; Walney Central v East Leeds; Wigan St Judes v Thornhill. Second division: Dewsbury Moor v New Earswick; Hull Dockers v Normanton, Milford v Featherstone Amateur; Ovenden v Eccles; Redhill v Skirlaugh; York Acorn v Shaw Cross.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Derby v Crystal Palace (7.30); Manchester v Leicester (7.30), Hemel and Watford v Thames Valley (7.30); Worthing v London (8.00).

MEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY: Pool matches: Brixton v Westminster (7.0); Cardiff v Bournemouth (8.0), Croydon v Chessington (8.0); Flintshire v Aston Adente (7.30), Mid Sussex v London (7.30); Northampton v Shropshire (8.0); Nottingham v Coventry (8.0), Ware v Oxford (8.0).

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: International Boxing Federation intercontinental lightweight championship: Jonathan Thaxton (Norwich, holder) v Bernard Paul (Tottenham) (Sheffield)

GOLF: Wilkinson Sword Ladies English Open (The Oxfordshire)

HOCKEY: Club tournament: Hampstead and Westminster Challenge (at Paddington Recreation Ground, 9.45).

MOTORCYCLING: British Superbike Championship (Mallory Park)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Bradford v Peterborough (7.30), Swindon v Hull (7.30). Conference League: Berwick v Arena Essex (7.0). British Open 1,000cc Sidecar Championship (Coventry, 7.30)

TENNIS: ATP Tour event (Bournemouth).

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division

Bath v Wasps
Harlequins v London Irish
Northampton v Bristol (2.15)
Orrell v Leicester
Sale v West Hartlepool
Saracens v Gloucester

Second division

Blackheath v Bedford
Nottingham v Newcastle
Richmond v Rotherham
Rugby v Coventry
Wakefield v London Scottish
Waterloo v Moseley

Third division

Clifton v Fylde
Harrogate v Wharfedale
Leeds v Rosslyn Park
London Welsh v Reading
Lydney v Otley
Morley v Havant
Redruth v Liverpool St Helens
Walsall v Exeter

Pilkington Cup
First round

Barking v Barnstaple
Birmingham/Solihull v Old Halesonians
Bishop's Stortford v Bicester
Bradford and Bingley v Aspatria
Bridgwater and Albion v Newbury
Bridlington v Nuneaton
Camberley v Plymouth
Camp Hill v Wigton
Charlton Park v Askeans
Derby v Blaydon
Esher v Ruislip
Gosport and Fareham v Weston-super-Mare
Haywards Heath v Beckenham
Henley v Westcombe Park
Launceston v Cheltenham
Lichfield v Winnington Park
Longton v Sheffield
Manchester v Scunthorpe
Marlow v Norwich
Metropolitan Police v Sutton and Epsom
New Brighton v Hereford
North Walsham v Gloucester OB
Preston Grasshoppers v Stoke-on-Trent
Southend v High Wycombe
Staines v Gloucester Saracens
Stourbridge v Kendal
Sutton Coldfield v Sandal
Swanage and Wareham v Berry Hill
Tabard v Bracknell
Westleigh v Tynedale
Widnes v Ampthill
Worcester v Vale of Lune

Welsh League
First division

Dunvant v Swansea (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Neath (2.30)
Llanelli v Newport (2.30)
Newbridge v Bridgend (2.30)
Pontypridd v Caerphilly (2.30)
Treorchy v Cardiff (2.30)

Second division

Aberavon v South Wales Police (2.30)
Abercynon v Cross Keys (2.30)
Blackwood v Abertillery (2.30)
Llandovery v Bonymaen (2.30)
Maesteg v Cardiff Institute (2.30)
Ystradgynlais v Pontypool (2.30)

Tennents Championship
First division

Heriot's FP v Jed-Forest
Melrose v Currie
Stirling County v Hawick
Watsonians v Boroughmuir

Second division

Dundee HSFP v West of Scotland
Edinburgh Academicals v Gala
Glasgow Academicals v Biggar
Kelso v Glasgow HK

Third division

Glasgow Southern v Kirkcaldy
Kilmarnock v Stewart's Melville FP
Musselburgh v Peebles
Selkirk v Preston Lodge

Fourth division

Glenrothes v Langholm
Gordonians v Corstorphine
Grangemouth v Ayr
Haddington v Hillhead/Jordanhill

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Newcastle v Telford (6.30); Kingston v Ayr (5.45); Cardiff v Swindon (7.0); Nottingham v Peterborough (7.0); Sheffield v Solihull (7.0), Basingstoke v Medway (6.30); Guildford v Bracknell (6.0).

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*

FA Carling Premiership

Chelsea v Aston Villa (4.0)
* Leicester v Liverpool

Nationwide League
First division

* West Brom v Wolverhampton (1.0)

OTHER MATCH: Middlesbrough v Ireland XI

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: UCD v Cork (3.15). Shield competition: Northern section: St Francis v Longford (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: Croydon v Tranmere; Everton v Southampton Saints, Ilkeston v Doncaster Belles; Liverpool FC Ladies v Arsenal; Millwall Lionesses v Wembley

FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Northern division: Bradford v Stourport; Bronte v Huddersfield; Sheffield Wednesday v Aston Villa, Wolverhampton v Notts County. Southern division: Berkhamstead v Brighton and Hove, Langford v Leyton Orient; Oxford Utd v Ipswich; Three Bridges v Whitehawk; Wimbledon v Town and County

CRICKET

AXA Equity & Law League

1.0, 40 overs

DERBY: Derbyshire v Warwickshire
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durham v Leicestershire
CHELMSFORD: Essex v Sussex
CANTERBURY: Kent v Hampshire
UXBRIDGE: Middlesex v Somerset
NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Lancashire
WORCESTER: Worcestershire v Gloucestershire
SCARBOROUGH: Yorkshire v Nottinghamshire

1.10, 40 overs

CARDIFF: Glamorgan v Surrey

RUGBY UNION

Leinster v Irish XV (at Donnybrook, 6.0)

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Chester v Hemel and Watford (6.0), Newcastle v Worthing (5.30); Sheffield v Manchester (5.30), Birmingham v Leopards (7.15); London v Derby (5.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Croydon v Solent (2.0)

MEN'S NATIONAL TROPHY: Pool matches: London v Thames Valley (2.0); Liverpool v Sheffield (3.30), Plymouth v South Wales (4.0); Slough v Westminster (4.30), South Bank v Mid Sussex (4.0); Stockton v Bury and Bolton (4.0); Shropshire v Swindon (4.0)

ICE HOCKEY

BENSON AND HEDGES CUP: Ayr v Newcastle (6.30); Kingston v Telford (5.45), Manchester v Cardiff (6.0); Slough v Swindon (6.30); Peterborough v Sheffield (5.30); Solihull v Nottingham (7.0); Bracknell v Basingstoke (6.0); Guildford v Medway (6.0).

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Bupa Great North Run (Tyneside)

GOLF: Wilkinson Sword Ladies English Open (The Oxfordshire)

HOCKEY: Club tournament: Hampstead and Westminster Challenge (at Paddington Recreation Ground, 9.45).

MOTORCYCLING: British Superbike Championship (Mallory Park)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Eastbourne v Belle Vue (3.30), Scottish Monarchs v Swindon (6.30). Conference League: Eastbourne v Reading (5.0), Linlithgow v Arena Essex (2.30); Mildenhall v Buxton (3.30)

TENNIS: ATP Tour event (Bournemouth).

THE TIMES GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

ARSENAL

Arsenal will not know until Monday whether Arsène Wenger, their new manager, can join them from Japan at the end of this month, or will have to stay with Grampus Eight until January. Meanwhile, Pat Rice, youth team manager last season, steps in for Stewart Houston, who resigned yesterday. Bergkamp, who injured a hamstring on Tuesday playing against Borussia Mönchengladbach, is out for a month. And what is to be done with a central defence that begins to look embalmed? **BG**

ASTON VILLA

Villa's snore draw with Helsingborgs IF on Tuesday, in the Uefa Cup, had many supporters drifting off into the Land of Nod. It is thus alarming to hear that Brian Little is considering installing sleeping quarters at Villa's Bodymoor Heath training ground, to bring the facilities into line with many continental clubs. Perhaps it explains why he embarked on a recent talent-spotting trip to Holland to check out the form of the little-known Dutch striker, Rip van Winkle. **RK**

BLACKBURN ROVERS

Grim times at Ewood Park, but for one Blackburn man there is a shaft of blue and white light. Last Monday, Chris Sutton made his first start in eight months, and now he has been offered the chance of replacing Alan Shearer. "It will be easier for Chris because the fans have already accepted him," Ray Harford, the manager, said. Sutton claims that he is no longer the rogue who got into trouble in the early part of his career. He is likely to be partnered by the returning Gallacher today. **DM**

CHELSEA

Tomorrow, Chelsea receive an Aston Villa team brought badly to earth in midweek in the Uefa Cup by modest Swedish opposition. David Pleat, Sheffield Wednesday's manager, felt that Chelsea were lucky to win at Hillsborough last weekend. That they *did* suggests that they have started to realise that games last all of 90 minutes. Craig Burley showed that the skills of Vialli, Leboeuf and Di Matteo are beginning to rub off on the Brits. Hitchcock replaces the injured Kharine in goal. **BG**

COVENTRY CITY

Coventry's abject plight — no wins, one point secured, one goal scored — is likely to be overshadowed at Highfield Road this afternoon by the much-heralded return to football of George Graham, in his latest guise as manager of Leeds United. The anticipated attendant media circus will probably concentrate on Graham's splendid resurrection rather than City's continued demise, which already appears to be spiralling out of control. Three cheers for good old George. Hip, hip . . . **RK**

DERBY COUNTY

Jim Smith has spent enough of his managerial career away from the top flight to ensure that he will not bask in the limelight of the Premiership. Indeed, he even sees himself as an ambassador for the Nationwide League. "There was a lot of doom and gloom at the start of the season about the sides who won promotion coming straight back down," Smith said after Monday's win at Blackburn. "I'm delighted that Leicester and Sunderland are doing well. And ourselves, of course." **RH**

EVERTON

Everton's season is only a month old, and they have already been on a roller-coaster of form and expectations. "Given the quality of the opposition, everyone in football thought we had a good start," Joe Royle, the manager, said. "Now, two defeats in four days, and they are trying to create a crisis around us." Today, in an attempt to rectify the problem, Royle is contemplating giving Michael Branch, the 17-year-old England Under-21 forward, his Goodison debut. **PB**

LEEDS UNITED

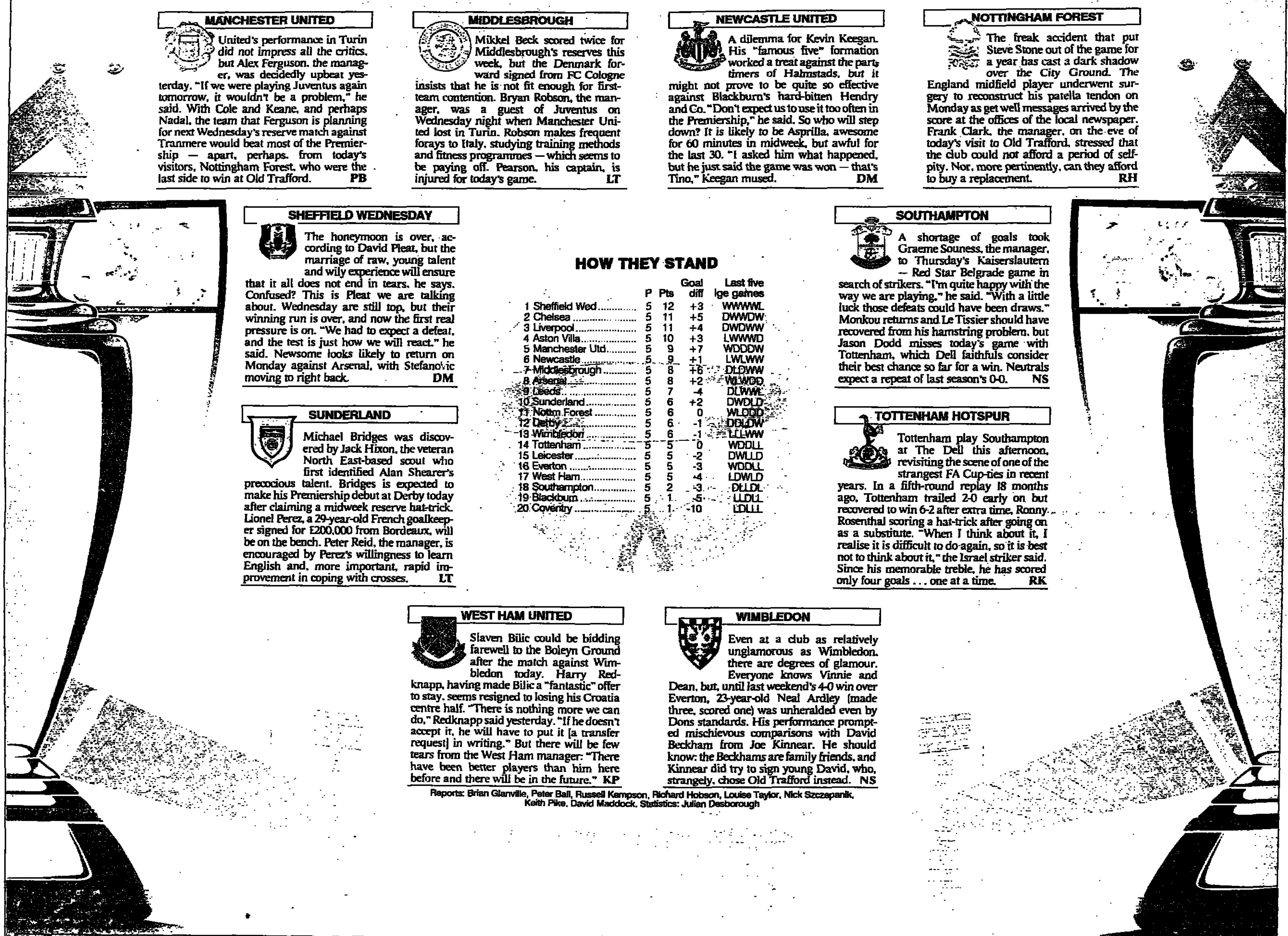
The rumours linking George Graham with half the Arsenal staff can be discounted — for the moment. "I'm going to look at the situation here and the players here," Graham said yesterday, "and I have to give everybody an opportunity. Then, if we need to get new players in, I will do so." But if the players are not being jettisoned immediately, the tactics are. Graham is expected to revert to 4-4-2. "The first priority is to get it right at the back and build from there." *Plus ça change* . . . **PB**

LEICESTER CITY

Leicester look good, but are they flattering to deceive? Martin O'Neill, the manager, has described his side as "scintillating" and "brilliant". Those words, however, hide an element of frustration. For all their possession and organisation, Leicester have scored just three times this season, with no hint of the instinctive, almost scrappy type of goal that the best strikers tend to collect. Ian Marshall could make his full debut at Anfield tomorrow after his recent £800,000 move from Ipswich. **RH**

LIVERPOOL

Anfield is not quite the happy place that it should be this morning. Safe passage in the Cup Winners' Cup now looks a formality after the win in Finland, but it was not a convincing performance. Most worrying is the continued inability of Fowler and Collymore to deliver. Roy Evans, the manager, is clearly worried. If the pair really have lost the plot, then expect Villa to come sniffing for Collymore, and Liverpool to renew interest in Heskey, of Leicester. **DM**



MANCHESTER UNITED

United's performance in Turin did *not* impress all the critics, but Alex Ferguson, the manager, was decidedly upbeat yesterday. "If we were playing Juventus again tomorrow, it wouldn't be a problem," he said. With Cole and Keane, and perhaps Nadal, the team that Ferguson is planning for next Wednesday's reserve match against Tranmere would beat most of the Premiership — apart, perhaps, from today's visitors, Nottingham Forest, who were the last side to win at Old Trafford. **PB**

MIDDLESBROUGH

Mikkel Beck scored twice for Middlesbrough's reserves this week, but the Denmark forward signed from FC Cologne insists that he is not fit enough for first-team contention. Bryan Robson, the manager, was a guest of Juventus on Wednesday night when Manchester United lost in Turin. Robson makes frequent forays to Italy, studying training methods and fitness programmes — which seems to be paying off. Pearson, his captain, is injured for today's game. **LT**

NEWCASTLE UNITED

A dilemma for Kevin Keegan. His "famous five" formation worked a treat against the part-timers of Halmstads, but it might not prove to be quite so effective against Blackburn's hard-bitten Hendry and Co. "Don't expect us to use it too often in the Premiership," he said. So who will step down? It is likely to be Asprilla, awesome for 60 minutes in midweek, but awful for the last 30. "I asked him what happened, but he just said the game was won — that's Tino," Keegan mused. **DM**

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

The freak accident that put Steve Stone out of the game for a year has cast a dark shadow over the City Ground. The England midfield player underwent surgery to reconstruct his patella tendon on Monday as get well messages arrived by the score at the offices of the local newspaper. Frank Clark, the manager, on the eve of today's visit to Old Trafford, stressed that the club could not afford a period of self-pity. Nor, more pertinently, can they afford to buy a replacement. **RH**

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

The honeymoon is over, according to David Pleat, but the marriage of raw, young talent and wily experience will ensure that it all does not end in tears, he says. Confused? This is Pleat we are talking about. Wednesday are still top, but their winning run is over, and now the first real pressure is on. "We had to expect a defeat, and the test is just how we will react," he said. Newsome looks likely to return on Monday against Arsenal, with Stefanovic moving to right back. **DM**

SUNDERLAND

Michael Bridges was discovered by Jack Hixon, the veteran North East-based scout who first identified Alan Shearer's precocious talent. Bridges is expected to make his Premiership debut at Derby today after claiming a midweek reserve hat-trick. Lionel Perez, a 29-year-old French goalkeeper signed for £200,000 from Bordeaux, will be on the bench. Peter Reid, the manager, is encouraged by Perez's willingness to learn English and, more important, rapid improvement in coping with crosses. **LT**

HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Last five lge games
1 Sheffield Wed	5	12	+3	WWWWL
2 Chelsea	5	11	+5	DWWDW
3 Liverpool	5	11	+4	DWDWW
4 Aston Villa	5	10	+3	LWWWD
5 Manchester Utd	5	9	+7	WDDDW
6 Newcastle	5	9	+1	LWLWW
7 Middlesbrough	5	8	+6	DLDWW
8 Arsenal	5	8	+2	WLWDD
9 Leeds	5	7	-4	DLWWL
10 Sunderland	5	6	+2	DWDLD
11 Nottm Forest	5	6	0	WLDDD
12 Derby	5	6	-1	DDLDW
13 Wimbledon	5	6	-1	LLLWW
14 Tottenham	5	5	0	WDDLL
15 Leicester	5	5	-2	DWLLD
16 Everton	5	5	-3	WDDLL
17 West Ham	5	5	-4	LDWLD
18 Southampton	5	2	-3	DLLDL
19 Blackburn	5	1	-5	LLDLL
20 Coventry	5	1	-10	LDLLL

SOUTHAMPTON

A shortage of goals took Graeme Souness, the manager, to Thursday's Kaiserslautern — Red Star Belgrade game in search of strikers. "I'm quite happy with the way we are playing," he said. "With a little luck those defeats could have been draws." Monkou returns and Le Tissier should have recovered from his hamstring problem, but Jason Dodd misses today's game with Tottenham, which Dell faithfuls consider their best chance so far for a win. Neutrals expect a repeat of last season's 0-0. **NS**

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Tottenham play Southampton at The Dell this afternoon, revisiting the scene of one of the strangest FA Cup-ties in recent years. In a fifth-round replay 18 months ago, Tottenham trailed 2-0 early on but recovered to win 6-2 after extra time, Ronny Rosenthal scoring a hat-trick after going on as a substitute. "When I think about it, I realise it is difficult to do again, so it is best not to think about it," the Israel striker said. Since his memorable treble, he has scored only four goals . . . one at a time. **RK**

WEST HAM UNITED

Slaven Bilic could be bidding farewell to the Boleyn Ground after the match against Wimbledon today. Harry Redknapp, having made Bilic a "fantastic" offer to stay, seems resigned to losing his Croatia centre half. "There is nothing more we can do," Redknapp said yesterday. "If he doesn't accept it, he will have to put it [a transfer request] in writing." But there will be few tears from the West Ham manager: "There have been better players than him here before and there will be in the future." **KP**

WIMBLEDON

Even at a club as relatively unglamorous as Wimbledon, there are degrees of glamour. Everyone knows Vinnie and Dean, but, until last weekend's 4-0 win over Everton, 23-year-old Neal Ardley (made three, scored one) was unheralded even by Dons standards. His performance prompted mischievous comparisons with David Beckham from Joe Kinnear. He should know: the Beckhams are family friends, and Kinnear did try to sign young David, who, strangely, chose Old Trafford instead. **NS**

Reports: Brian Glanville, Peter Ball, Russell Kempson, Richard Hobson, Louise Taylor, Nick Szczepanik, Keith Pike, David Maddock. Statistics: Julian Desborough

COVENTRY CITY v LEEDS UNITED

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, —, 1-1, 0-0, 3-3, 0-2, 2-1, 0-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

COVENTRY CITY (from): S Ogrizovic, D Burrows, B Borrows, P Williams, D Dublin, N Whelan, G McAllister, J Salako, E Jess, R Shaw, P Telfer, K Richardson, A Ducros, J Filan, M Hall, R Genaux, Marques Isaias

LEEDS UNITED (from): N Martyn, G Kelly, L Sharpe, C Palmer, R Jobson, M Ford, I Rush, D Wetherall, I Harte, R Wallace, L Radebe, A Couzens, M Beeney, M Hateley, A Gray

DERBY COUNTY v SUNDERLAND

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 3-2, —, —, —, 3-3, 1-2, 0-1, 5-0, 0-1, 3-1

HOW THEY LINE UP

DERBY COUNTY (from): R Hoult, G Rowett, I Stimac, J Carbon, J Laursen, C Powell, D Powell, C Dailly, A Asanovic, D Sturridge, R Willems, S Flynn, P Simpson, M Gabbiadini, A Ward, R van der Laan, M Taylor.

SUNDERLAND (from): A Coton, D Kubicki, M Scott, P Bracewell, K Ball, M Gray, A Melville, R Ord, P Stewart, S Agnew, N Quinn, A Rae, C Russell, G Hall, M Bridges, S Aiston.

EVERTON v MIDDLESBROUGH

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 2-1, —, —, —, 2-2, —, —, 4-0.

HOW THEY LINE UP

EVERTON (from): N Southall, P Gerrard, E Barrett, M Hottiger, A Hinchcliffe, C Short, D Unsworth, A Kanchelskis, A Grant, J Ebbrell, J Parkinson, G Speed, G Stuart, D Ferguson, M Branch, P Rideout, A Limpar.

MIDDLESBROUGH: A Miller, N Cox, D Whyte, S Vickers, P Whelan, Emerson, N Barmby, R Mustoe, Juninho, F Ravanelli, C Fleming. Substitutes: to be announced

MANCHESTER UNITED v NOTTINGHAM FOREST

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 2-2, 2-0, 1-0, 0-1, 1-2, 2-0, —, 1-2, 5-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Nevile, D May, G Pallister, R Johnsen, D Irwin, K Poborsky, D Beckham, N Butt, R Giggs, E Cantona, J Cruyff, B McClair, A Cole, R Keane, R van der Gouw, O G Solskjaer.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (from): M Crossley, S Pearce, C Cooper, S Chettle, C Bart-Williams, D Saunders, I Woan, A Silenzi, N Jerkan, A I Haaland, S Gemmill, D Phillips, A Fettis, C Allen

NEWCASTLE UNITED v BLACKBURN ROVERS

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: —, —, —, 2-1, 1-0, 0-0, —, 1-1, 1-1, 1-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): P Smicek, D Peacock, R Lee, P Beardsley, A Shearer, L Ferdinand, D Ginola, S Watson, F Asprilla, S Howey, L Clark, S Hislop, P Albert, K Gillespie, W Barton, R Elliott

BLACKBURN ROVERS (from): T Flowers, C Coleman, J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, S Ripley, L Bohinen, G Fenton, H Berg, G Donis, P Warhurst, G Flitcroft, I Pearce, W McKinlay, G Croft, S Given, C Sutton

SOUTHAMPTON v TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 2-1, 0-2, 1-1, 3-0, 2-3, 0-0, 1-0, 4-3, 0-0

HOW THEY LINE UP

SOUTHAMPTON (from): D Beasant, M Le Tissier, N Shipperley, N Maddison, S Charlton, A Neilson, M Oakley, R Dryden, R Slater, C Lundekvam, J Magilton, N Heaney, G Watson, G Potter, N Moss

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, E Baardsen, J Edinburgh, C Wilson, S Campbell, C Calderwood, S Nethercott, D Anderton, A Nielsen, D Howells, R Fox, A Sinton, C Armstrong, R Allen, R Rosenthal, S Carr, D Kerslake.

WEST HAM UNITED v WIMBLEDON

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-3, 1-2, 1-2, —, —, 1-1, —, 0-2, 3-0, 1-1.

HOW THEY LINE UP

WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Miklosko, T Breacker, K Rowland, M Rieper, S Bilic, J Dicks, F Lampard, D Williamson, I Dowie, S Jones, M Hughes, S Lazaridis, R Ferdinand, P Futre, F Raducioiu, I Dumitrescu, S Potts, P Shilton, A Cottee

WIMBLEDON (from): N Sullivan, P Heald, K Cunningham, C Perry, B McAllister, B Thatcher, D Jupp, D Blackwell, A Kimble, P Fear, N Ardley, V Jones, R Earle, M Harford, O Leonhardsen, M Gayle, J Goodman, E Ekoku, A Clarke, J Euell.

TOMORROW

CHELSEA v ASTON VILLA

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 4-1, —, —, 0-3, 1-0, 2-0, 0-1, 1-1, 1-0, 1-2

HOW THEY LINE UP

CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, N Colgan, S Clarke, R Di Matteo, M Duberry, M Hughes, E Johnsen, F Leboeuf, D Lee, S Minto, C Burley, A Myers, J Morris, M Nicholls, D Petrescu, J Spencer, G Vialli, D Wise.

ASTON VILLA (from): M Oakes, A Rachel, A Wright, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton, I Taylor, M Draper, A Townsend, D Yorke, T Johnson, P McGrath, R Scimeca, Fernando Nelson, S Curcic, S Milosevic, J Joachim

LEADING SCORERS

6 F Ravanelli (Middlesbrough) **4** K Campbell (Nottingham Forest)

3 L Ferdinand (Newcastle), R Humphreys (Sheffield Wednesday), Juninho (Middlesbrough), S McManaman (Liverpool)

2 C Armstrong (Tottenham Hotspur), D Beckham (Manchester United), D Bergkamp (Arsenal), A Booth (Sheffield Wednesday), E Cantona (Manchester United), J Cruyff (Manchester United), R Earle (Wimbledon), D Ferguson (Everton), I Harte (Leeds), E Heskey (Leicester), M Hughes (West Ham), T Johnson (Aston Villa), M Le Tissier (Southampton), F Leboeuf (Chelsea), P Merson (Arsenal), S Milosevic (Aston Villa), N Quinn (Sunderland), A Shearer (Newcastle), D Sturridge (Derby), G Vialli (Chelsea), G Whittingham (Sheffield Wednesday), I Wright (Arsenal)

The official internet site of the FA Carling Premiership is at http://www.fa-carling.com/

TOMORROW

LEICESTER CITY v LIVERPOOL

TICKETS: Sold out

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, —, —, —, —, —, —, —, 1-2, —.

HOW THEY LINE UP

LEICESTER CITY (from): K Keller, S Grayson, M Whitlow, J Watts, S Prior, S Walsh, N Lennon, S Taylor, S Claridge, E Heskey, M Izzet, J Willis, I Marshall, M Robins, C Hill, G Parker, F Rolling, J Lawrence, K Poole.

LIVERPOOL (from): D James, M Wright, D Matteo, P Babb, J McAteer, M Thomas, S McManaman, J Barnes, S I Bjornebye, S Collymore, R Fowler, A Warner, N Ruddock, L Jones, J Redknapp, P Berger.

MONDAY

ARSENAL v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

TICKETS: Seats available

10-YEAR RECORD: 2-0, 3-1, 1-1, 5-0, —, 7-1, 2-1, 1-0, 0-0, 4-2.

HOW THEY LINE UP

ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, J Lukic, L Dixon, M Keown, A Linighan, N Winterburn, R Parlour, D Platt, P Merson, J Hartson, I Wright, S Bould, G Helder, S Morrow, P Shaw, M Rose.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (from): K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, D Walker, G Whittingham, A Booth, R Blinker, D Stefanovic, W Collins, R Humphreys, S Oakes, S Nicol, J Sheridan, O Trustfull, D Hirst, M Bright.

WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Today

10.50pm BBC1 Match of the Day

Tomorrow

11.00am Sky Sports Goals on Sunday

4pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday
Chelsea v Aston Villa (live)

Monday

8pm Sky Sports Monday Night Football
Arsenal v Sheffield Wednesday (live)

55

FOOTBALL

Follow me, Franny and we can rewrite story of the Blues

MICHAEL HENDERSON

My bid for Maine Road hot-seat

It has been a splendid week for Manchester traditions. The long-awaited Bridgewater Hall opened on Wednesday night, providing the Hallé Orchestra with a spanking new venue. Manchester City merely took a spanking. Two weeks after Alan Ball left Maine Road with everybody's blessing, they are no nearer appointing his successor.

Down the years, City have supplied plenty of laughs to a grateful nation, and it does the heart good to see this glorious comedy developing a new storyline. Proper Mancunians, who know that City are the true club of Manchester, do not mind joining in. We look down our noses at the fly-by-nights and out-of-towners who flock to watch the other lot. Goodness gracious, they do not even play in the city.

The world is waiting to see what kind of man City will appoint this time. Since winning the old League Cup in 1976 under Tony Book, who seems to have been there longer than the Romanovs ruled Russia, they have engaged every kind of manager, bobbing between the divisions like a stricken clipper on the high seas. Now Francis Lee, the chairman, stares out from the poopdeck, scanning the horizon for some friendly sails.

Malcolm Allison had a high public profile, Mel Machin none at all. Howard Kendall was proven, Brian Horton wet behind the ears. John Bond talked a good game, Alan Ball, in the end, did not talk at all, though he lived down to his reputation — "If you want to fall, send for Ball". Now they want to bring back Kendall, ignoring what the Yanks know: you cannot go home again.

So I say to Franny: look no further. I followed you to Maine Road as a young fan when you left Bolton Wanderers 29 years ago this week, and I am confident that we can establish a sound working relationship, so long as you support my five-point blueprint for the club's regeneration. Together, we could put the club back on its feet.

1. Set up a Checkpoint Charlie outside the main entrance to halt the tidal wave of duff Germans to Moss Side.

Perhaps Book, that man for all seasons, could supervise this quality control procedure by doing sentry duty, adopting a severe manner and asking all who seek to pass: "Your names, please?" It would carry no guarantee of success, but, in a greatcoat and a monocle, he would make a good turn at the Christmas panto.

2. Clean the filter between the practice ground and the field of play; at the moment, there is an obvious lack of communication.

As coach, it is hard to look beyond the Wye Bird, the lead in that excellent children's television programme, *Playdays*. She speaks in a sing-song Welsh voice that compels the listener's attention and, having wings, she could flutter hither and thither during matches, cooing encouragement to the players and disrupting opponents.

3. Revert immediately to the 2-3-5 formation that won City their last championship, in 1968, and restore the clean blue shirts and the scarlet-trimmed socks.

It is asking a bit much of Franny to put on his old togs and roar down the wing as he used to, but perhaps we could attach a lifesize cut-out model to a track beside the touchline, and give him a couple of spins in each half. For old times' sake, he might take the occasional tumble when he gets near the penalty area.

4. Instal a cabal of prominent City supporters to gee up the dressing-room, which is a miserable place. Howard Davies, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, is the natural choice as chairman.

Bob Willis can dispense the wine, Bernard Manning provide the ha-has and John Stalker conduct a thorough, unhindered inquiry into the club's shoot-to-miss policy. Then there is that bloody awful pop group that always appears to be breaking up. They can clean the toilets.

5. As a goodwill gesture to the city, the club could form a choral society from among its former managers and players, and present a concert at the aforementioned Bridgewater Hall, at the end of each season. First up, Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*.

That is the survival plan on which I stake my reputation. Lest anybody suggest that it is proposed in jest, consider the feast of entertainment year in, year out, for the past two decades and answer this: who is joking?

Well, maybe next year.

'Set up a checkpoint to halt wave of duff Germans to Moss Side'

Bitter-sweet reunion for old boys

BY DAVID MADDOCK

GARY McALLISTER and Gordon Strachan, the brain and lungs of the Leeds United side that won the championship under Howard Wilkinson, face their former club today with genuine regret that their long-term mentor will not be in opposition.

McAllister and Strachan, now respectively captain and assistant manager at Coventry City, provide the opposition for George Graham's first match in charge of Leeds.

"I had a lot of highs with Leeds," McAllister said. "It was a big part of my life, the club where I made my name and won trophies. I was a champion there and we went to Wembley, so it will always be part of me. I was there for six years and the club still means so much to me, so I hope the changes they have made are good ones."

In particular, the Scotland captain is concerned with the way that Wilkinson was treated towards the end of his reign. "I'm sad for Howard, I know he has been criticised for some of his decisions in the past, but the players simply haven't done it for him; they have let him down," he said.

"The appointent of George Graham as manager was the best known secret at Leeds, even before my transfer. As soon as the Caspian group took over, he was linked with the job, so it came as no surprise to me when it happened. Howard spent money on the right sort of players, but then they got rid of him. It is strange he has been given the money, and then sacked so quickly."

Nadal on verge of signing for United

BY PETER BALL AND DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER United expect to sign Miguel Angel Nadal, the Spain defender, for about £2.4 million from Barcelona early next week. After watching United's game in Turin on Wednesday, Nadal had talks with Barcelona yesterday and is expected to arrive in Manchester to complete negotiations at the beginning of the week.

"We are getting closer and he should be here on Tuesday, possibly even Monday," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. "We agreed a fee with Barcelona two or three weeks ago and, providing that figure hasn't changed, I think we'll go ahead."

Barcelona turned down United's bid for Nadal in the summer, but, with Laurent Blanc and Fernando Couto, they now have cover at centre half. Nadal, 30, is one of the best defenders in world football and will further strengthen United's already imposing squad. He is expected to sign a four-year contract.

Ray Harford, despite his air of cheerful indifference, has every right to be a worried man. One point from five FA Carling Premiership matches and who happens along next? Alan Shearer and Newcastle United, his new club.

It is enough to have Harford, the Blackburn Rovers manager, jerking instinctively for the P45. The irony is not lost on him. Shearer's departure ripped the heart out of his rebuilding plans at the worst moment.

Harford, though, is not unduly worried by the prospect of visiting St James' Park today, even though he readily admits that another defeat will serve only to pile more pressure on him and his team. "It was the timing of Alan's departure that was the real blow," he said. "I honestly believe we were getting close to fitting together all the pieces of the jigsaw.

"Then, right at the end of the summer, Alan insisted he wanted to leave. There was nothing we could do about it in the end and it left us with no time to put the jigsaw back together."

However, Harford believes that he may just have the short-term answer in the shape of Chris Sutton, his returning forward. "We have lacked a leader up front since Alan went," he said. "We have plenty of forwards, but none who has the presence to lead the line. I always thought Chris would be our best option because the supporters have already accepted him.

"I don't want to put too much pressure on the lad, but Chris looks the replacement. I never thought they would work as a partnership because Chris wanted to be leader, not No 2 behind Alan. Now he's got his chance." Harford's chances may also rest on the result.

Paul McGrath's prospective move from Aston Villa to Coventry City has fallen through. Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, was unhappy to be asked for a transfer fee for McGrath, 36, the Ireland defender.

"We were prepared to take him off the Villa wage bill, but they wanted £200,000 as well and we're not talking in that region," he said.

Colney take 50p bus ride to glory

DETAILING two claims to sporting fame in London Colney is easy enough (Keith Pike writes). The Hertfordshire village is home to Arsenal's training ground and a handy junior rugby club. Pushed for a third, and locals would probably have to settle for the fact that the nearby superstore sells replica shirts. Certainly, most of them are far more likely to spend Saturday afternoons shopping than checking out the local football team.

Sainsbury's, though, has

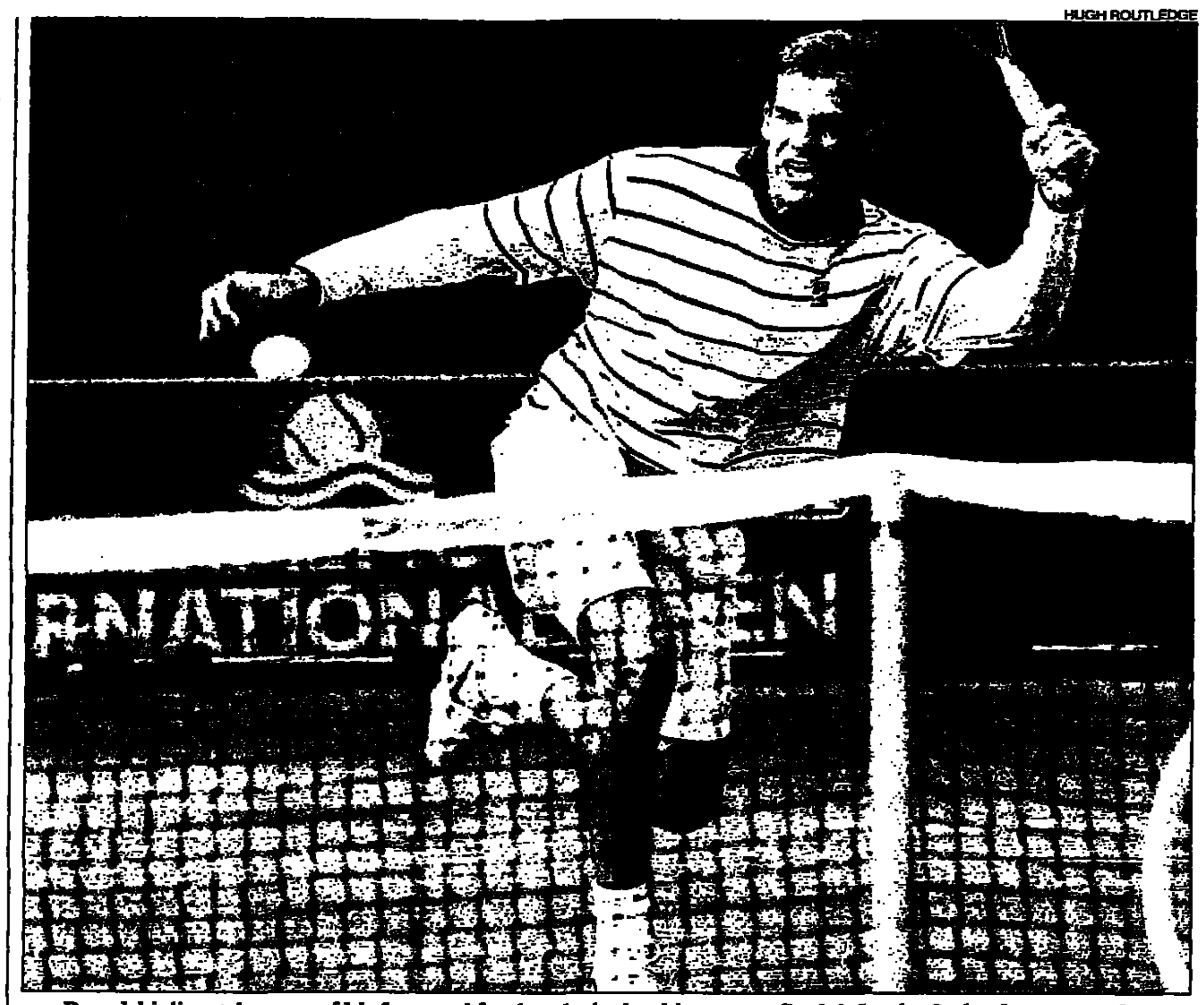
Albans City, their neighbours, in the first qualifying round today. Even rural, resplendent Hertfordshire is not immune to Cup fever. "The whole place has been buzzing," David Brock, the Colney secretary, said. "It is our first season in the Cup, and nobody could quite believe it when we beat Biggleswade [1-0, in the preliminary round] and got to play St Albans. Often, we are watched by a man and his dog. On Saturday the crowd could be anything up to 2,000. It is certainly the biggest day in

were formed in 1907, so that is a lot of history.

The problems of coping with a crowd that size persuaded the police to advise switching the tie from Cotlandswick to Clarence Park, the home of St Albans and all of a 50p bus ride away. Colney, one eye on the cash register, agreed.

The tie is the equivalent of Newcastle United playing Macclesfield Town. "But we have had St Albans watched, and we don't think they are *that* good," Brock said. "Win or lose, we'll have a good day

HUGH ROUTLEDGE



Rusedski dispatches one of his favoured forehands during his quarter-final defeat by Stoltenberg yesterday

Rusedski's flaws are all in the mind

BY ALIX RAMSAY

IN OFFICES all over the country, workers suffer from that Friday feeling. Concentrating on the job in hand — regardless of the financial rewards — becomes increasingly difficult as the weekend approaches. Tennis players are no different, especially at the Bournemouth International, where Greg Rusedski and Sergi Bruguera threw away winning leads to lose their quarter-final matches yesterday.

The day was particularly frustrating for Rusedski. For one set, he played some of his best tennis in months, not allowing Jason Stoltenberg so much as a sniff of a chance. Serving well and volleying cleanly, it took him 28 minutes to take the first set, but only a further 24 minutes to let his mind — and his lead — wander. By the time he had lost 1-6, 6-1, 6-3, he was a less than happy man.

"I'm mad at myself," he said. "There is no one else out there losing these matches, just me; and it's not the tennis that's losing me the matches, it's the mental side. When I make mental errors, it's so frustrating. I just go blank and don't focus enough."

For a player who claims not to be able to concentrate on court, he certainly seems focused on the problem at all other times.

Since the spring Rusedski has been working with Brian Teacher to try to sort out technical and mental weaknesses in his game, but, as yet, the lessons are having no effect. Finding time together, away from the schedule of tournaments, has not been easy. Yesterday, as Stoltenberg began to gather momentum, Rusedski's backhand — never his favourite shot — let him down time and again.

When chances came his way he managed to make life as difficult as possible, selecting the most complicated option and becoming increasingly frustrated when it did not work. "It's something that has got to be cleaned up and I don't seem to be cleaning it up this year," he said. It was Friday the thirteenth after all and, if Hollywood is to be believed, on such days it is best to avoid men called Jason. Bruguera, the Olympic silver medal-winner, was having the same problem.

Bruguera, the No 5 seed and world No 65, was strolling through the first set against Magnus Norman, of Sweden. At 5-3 up, he let a late line call rattle him and, arguing his case with more enthusiasm than tact, he was given a warning for verbal abuse. With that, the game was gone and, before long, so was the set, 7-5. He then got back to work, racing away in the second set and most of the third.

At 5-1 ahead, and within touching distance of a place in the semi-finals, that Friday feeling came into play. He thought that he was going to win but forgot to think of how to do it. Norman went on to win 7-5, 1-6, 7-5.

Danny Sapsford did not have time to get his head around the problem facing him in the quarter-finals. He lasted a mere 46 minutes against Alberto Costa, the No 1 seed, going down 6-1, 6-1. Not that Sapsford can be too disappointed. It was his first quarter-final at this level and, playing one of the ever-growing band of Spaniards brought up on clay, he was always fighting a losing battle.

Costa faces Norman in the semi-finals today, while Stoltenberg takes on Marc-Kevin Göllner, of Germany, who ended Mariano Zabaleta's challenge 6-4, 6-1.

Results 45

MOTOR RACING

Top teams steer Hill in direction of Jordan

BY OLIVER HOLT

DAMON HILL'S chances of securing a drive in one of the top four Formula One teams next season were dealt a double blow yesterday when McLaren and Benetton moved towards maintaining their existing driver line-ups in 1997. Hill now seems set to form an unlikely alliance with Ralf Schumacher, the younger brother of Michael, the world champion, at Jordan.

Benetton did not make a formal comment about their decision to persevere with Jean Alesi and Gerhard Berger next season, but it is believed that they reached a final decision to honour their drivers' two-year contracts yesterday, ending attempts to squeeze Hill, who leads the world championship by 13 points with two races to go, into the team instead of Alesi, the erratic Frenchman.

McLaren, though, trumpeted the fact that they had decided to hold on to Mika Hakkinen, the Finn, as a partner for David Coulthard next year. Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director, showed a keen interest in Hill before it was announced that he would be dropped by Williams at the end of the year, but yesterday he said that "an extensive and detailed evaluation" had settled on Hakkinen. "I have always felt that Mika has the talent and commitment to be a world champion," Dennis said.

The decision makes it almost certain that Ralf Schumacher, who has tested a McLaren twice this year but is unwilling to be a test driver, will move to Jordan. His recruitment could be announced at a press conference by Benson and Hedges, the team's sponsor, next Friday in Estoril, two days before the Portuguese Grand Prix.

Jordan are also believed to have opened talks with Hill about 1997. With Ferrari committed to Michael Schumacher and Eddie Irvine, and Williams to Jacques Villeneuve and Heinz-Harald Frentzen, the Irish team is Hill's best option ahead of Footwork and Stewart Grand Prix.

ATHLETICS

McColgan seeks to prove point

BY JOHN GOODBODY

LIZ McCOLGAN will be seeking her third victory in the Bupa Great North Run on Tyneside tomorrow as some slight compensation for her disappointment at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

McColgan, a consummate winner of the Flora London Marathon in April, was bitten on her leg by an insect two days before the Olympic marthon. Debilitated by pain and swelling, she eventually finished sixteenth in an event in which she was among the favourites for a medal.

McColgan, the 1991 world 10,000 metres champion, has recovered from that experience. "I have had blood tests and everything is fine," she said yesterday.

She will be heading 33,000 competitors in the half-marathon, the biggest mass participation event in British athletics. Among her principal rivals will be Yvonne Murray, another Scot, the Commonwealth 10,000 metres champion, who missed the Olympics because of a sciatic nerve injury.

Murray, who will be making her debut at the distance, said: "It has been a traumatic year, but it has made me very hungry and very determined."

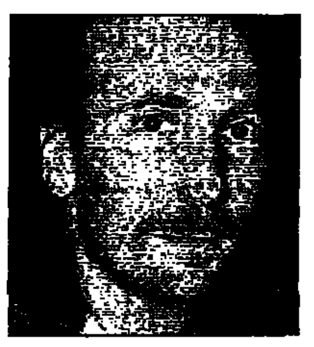
Among the men, Benson Masya, of Kenya, the event record-holder and three times champion, is the favourite. He was brought into the race when Josia Thugwane, the Olympic marathon champion from South Africa, pulled out, claiming that his life had been threatened.

Thugwane said that, because of the rewards which were awaiting him after his success in Atlanta, people "have been talking about a plan to kill me. I do not know who the crooks are, but, if they say they will kill someone, they will do it. They think I am rich. I fear more for my wife and family than myself." Instead, he will be attending a reception hosted by President Nelson Mandela.

The leading Briton is likely to be Paul Evans, who was third in the London Mara-

Mauled Lionesses get the better of rough girls' game

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

THIS column's best congratulations to the Great Britain Lionesses, the women's rugby league team who have just come home after beating Australia. They return with tales of assault, robbery and dirty tricks perpetrated on them by Australian women.

"They were generally arrogant and loud and tried everything they could off the field to hinder us," Lisa McIntosh, the Great Britain captain and a player with Dudley Hill Thunderbirds, said. She talks of poor training facilities, rotten changing-rooms, and an occasion when jerseys No 13 and No 24 were swiped from their kitbag. Brenda Dobek, the vice-captain, got an elbow in the throat, several more players were gouged, and McIntosh, herself, was knocked unconscious in a match. The Australians applauded each other as she was led off. "Apparently, five or six of them hit me, and I got an elbow in the eye," she said.

Tracey Gaunt, the Australia manager, is "very embarrassed" about the theft of the shirts, but felt the series was "very clean". As Oscar Wilde said of football: "All very well as a game for rough girls, but it is hardly suitable for delicate boys."

Own goal

Free the Velez Sarsfield One! For it seems that Jose Luis Chilavert, old friend of this column and many times winner of the coveted goalkeeper-of-the-week award, has been the victim of a cruel and vicious vendetta. Chilavert, who won the Argentine championship last season with Velez Sarsfield, and plays for Paraguay, has a CV that includes a goal from a 58-yard free kick, plus another scored against René Higuita, another old friend of this space. Before playing for Paraguay against Argentina, Chilavert boasted that he would score from a free kick. The score was 1-1, the scorer was indeed Chilavert — from a free kick.

So the Paraguayan has been kicked out of football in Argentina. After the match, an old business was dragged up: one that took place in April 1994. After a match against Chilavert and Assad, another player, were accused of punching a pair of jobsworths at the stadium. The matter was dropped, but it was revived again after the Argentina-Paraguay game. Assad, said originally to be more to blame, got off; Chilavert was given a three-month suspended jail sentence — and banned from football for 13 months.

Doomed to fail

I fear for Boreham Wood, I really do. Particularly as I write these words on Friday the thirteenth. What more can go wrong with this football club? These bastions of the Icis League premier division began their season an hour and ten minutes behind schedule, arriving at Kingstonian for their opening game late after an accident on the A3. In their second match, at home to Hitchin Town, they had three men sent off.

The *next* game, against Dagenham and Redbridge, was abandoned with eight minutes left after a spectator suffered a heart attack and died. In the fourth match (away to Bromley), Andy Lomas, in goal, was knocked unconscious and replaced by a midfield player. In the fifth, at Hendon, David Speedie (the former Scotland international, remember him?) was sent off for a "spectacular" kick on Billy Harrigan, the Boreham Wood captain. Boreham Wood then missed two penalties. They take on mighty Tring in the FA Cup today: a change of luck is, I hope, due.

Well, not much else can go wrong eh?
TD

Blind devotion

Gianluca Vialli is in love, and when you are in love, you see no fault with your beloved. Vialli, of Italy and, more recently, Chelsea, said: "At Chelsea stadium there are 40,000 fans who encourage us from beginning to end without ever insulting the opposition." My dear, of course not. Perish *il pensiero*.

Wicked read

Publication of the week: a book to mark the 21st anniversary of the London Spartan League. It has the glorious title *See That Nothing Is Done Wickedly*, which is, of course, the motto of the league, and one we should all adopt at once. You can get it for £4 from John Stancombe, 3 Westlands Terrace, Balham, SW12 9PD.

Dog's dinner

Meanwhile, back to the misty world of Power Boosters, and John Sellers writes to tell me of the ideal pre-match meal for a greyhound. Though many in the business believe that a live bunny on race morning is the perfect recipe, Mr Sellers preferred to give his own dog a schooner of sherry whipped up with a couple of eggs a couple of hours before the off. Children, don't you try this at home — not even for your dog. Quite apart from anything else, it is against the rules of racing, but, Mr Sellers insists, it works. For this piece of skulduggery, he is rewarded with a bottle of Nicolas Feuillatte champagne and Le

SNOOKER

Switch puts Morgan in the frame

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

BRIAN MORGAN, whose confidence plummeted to rock bottom last season, maintained his unexpectedly successful start to the new campaign by reaching the semi-finals of the Asian Classic here yesterday.

Morgan, the world No 49, entered uncharted territory in a ranking event when he recovered from a 4-2 deficit to defeat Tony Drago, of Malta, 5-4. When he meets Ken Doherty today, Morgan will be attempting to extend his run of six wins in the tournament, during which he has eliminated Stephen Hendry and Jimmy White.

Such a performance represents a remarkable transformation in fortunes for the 1987 world junior champion, who lost 12 consecutive matches last season, largely as a result of becoming preoccupied with the importance of defence.

"Over the past couple of years I've become more and more negative," Morgan, a professional since 1989, said. "It's so easy to get bogged down, but, after last season, I realised changes had to be made. Now I'm a lot more positive and, in fact, I've altered my whole philosophy towards the game."

Drago, the holder of records for snooker's fastest frame and for its swiftest best-of-nine and best-of-17-frame victories, lived up to his reputation as the quickest potter on the circuit by rallying from 2-1 down to lead 4-2 in just 33 minutes. However, the knowledge that he had lost on all eight of his previous appearances in the quarter-finals of a world ranking event began to cloud his thoughts.

Drago scored only two points in the next two frames and Morgan, who had caught up to 4-4 with solid runs of 52, 73 and 46, added the ninth almost as convincingly.

Alan McManus was at the table until the early hours for the second day in succession yesterday before he edged out Steve Davis 5-4.

GOLF 44
De Lorenzi tames course on way to record 64

SPORT

TENNIS 47
Sapsford and Rusedski bow out in Bournemouth

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1996

Internal combustion halts Arsenal

Brian Glanville follows a trail of mismanagement that has undermined the finer traditions of Highbury

Arsenal may feel that waiting for Wenger is like waiting for Godot. Only on Monday will Arsène Wenger, their new manager, know whether Nagoya Grampus Eight, his Japanese club, is prepared to release him at the end of this month, rather than in January.

In the meantime, Arsenal yesterday lost Stewart Houston, their acting manager. Previously a No 2 under George Graham and Bruce Rioch, Houston resigned with two years of his contract left to run.

His place, at least for Arsenal's home game with Sheffield Wednesday on Monday, will be taken by Pat Rice, the youth team manager last season, a former captain of Arsenal and Northern Ireland, and a cheerfully resilient figure, as indeed he will need to be.

This is a fiasco entirely of Arsenal's own making. A club that was once a byword for sane, sound management, for directors who seldom interfered and usually made sound decisions, now seems in a state of near-chaos. The week had begun badly enough with that 3-2 loss at home to Borussia Mönchengladbach in the Uefa Cup and the probable elimination from a tournament into which they had scraped on the final day of last season.

The game on Tuesday was lost not so much by the withdrawal of the injured Dennis Bergkamp as by horrific errors in a porous defence. Even the usually majestic David Seaman looked seriously fallible, not least when Borussia scored their traumatising second goal. What can any goalkeeper be expected to do behind such arthritic central defenders? Defenders who, even when their number is eventually increased to three stoppers, still give away the softest of headed goals from a free kick? Tony Adams has been missing from that defence this season, but that is hardly an excuse for failing, all summer, to find reinforcements.

At the root of Arsenal's close-season paralysis, their inept failure to act in the transfer market until the very last moment, lay their decisions to remove responsibility for transfer dealing from Rioch, and then to have sacked him, not at the conclusion of one season, but at the beginning of another.

The problem has largely been that David Dein, the club's hyperactive vice-president, taking upon himself the burden of wheeling and dealing in the market, has come up with no more than a couple of French players, signed so late that they are still not fit for the first team.

Patrick Vieira, snapped up last season with characteristic greed by AC Milan, is a young midfield player of Senegalese origin, whose talents could make him important. Milan, expected to send him out on loan, kept him instead, but hardly gave him a game. Remi Garde is a midfield player so little-known in English football that, as he modestly says himself, he might be called *Monsieur Qui?*

Last season Arsenal might have had Juninho, that glorious, resilient little Brazilian, who was keen to play in London. In the event, he joined the far less fashionable Middlesbrough. This summer Arsenal could have *signed* Gianluca Vialli, whose first choice they were. They stood aside and let him go to Chelsea.

For years now, long before Dein started meddling in the market, Arsenal have ignored their own tradition, some 70 years old, of having a guiding spirit, a scheming inside forward. First, there was Alex James, the little Scot, with his raking passes to the wings and down the middle. Bryn Jones, Jimmy Logie, Jimmy Broomfield, George Eastham and Liam Brady (who may, as youth manager, now help Rice), followed. Paul Davis was in the mould, but George Graham, ever functional, hardly used him.

Discipline declined, supporters brought up in the Herbert Chapman tradition, one of benign paternalism, grew all too used to Arsenal players appearing in court on a variety of charges. Dein is no longer the main shareholder: that it is Danny Fiszman, a diamond merchant and director, a loyal Arsenal supporter, apparently, but one whose role in the council of the club remains obscure. If Wenger cannot come until January, will Arsenal stagger on as they are?

What stage would they be in by the new year? They could well be out of the money in the FA Carling Premiership, out of the Uefa Cup (an odds-on bet), and out of the Coca-Cola Cup, too — and, perhaps, eliminated from the third round of the FA Cup.

Even if Wenger arrives this month, he has to acclimatise. His English is good, but English football is a world of its own; and, well though he did at Monaco, they were in the doldrums by the time he was sacked after seven long years.

Houston: career move

Houston to take charge at QPR

By Russell Kempson

STEWART HOUSTON, *Arsenal's former assistant manager, is expected to become the manager of Queens Park Rangers this weekend.* Houston, who resigned yesterday after ten years at Highbury, should take charge of QPR in time for their Coca-Cola Cup second-round, first-leg tie away to Swindon Town on Wednesday.

With George Graham, the former Arsenal manager, installed at Leeds United on Tuesday, it was initially believed that Houston would join his mentor at Elland Road. He had become disillusioned at Arsenal, where he had been caretaker manager since Bruce Rioch was dismissed last month.

Though he had two years still to run on a recently signed contract, he chose to leave despite having been guaranteed the No 2 position when Arsène Wenger, the Frenchman, eventually arrives from Nagoya Grampus Eight, his club in Japan.

"The past ten seasons have been great and I can assure you that I have left the club on very amicable terms," he said. "I have wanted to further my career for some time now, but it had become clear that I was not going to get that chance at Arsenal."

Arsenal are to make a statement on Monday about Wenger's arrival; QPR would not comment on Houston's future. "We have no plans to announce a new manager at the moment," Clive Berlin, the managing director, said.

Ray Wilkins, the former QPR player-manager, who left the club by mutual consent last week, has joined Hibernian, of the Bell's Scottish League premier division, on a one-month contract as a player.

Takeover bid, page 47

Unsung heroes have title in sight

By Michael Henderson

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of four): Leicestershire (24pts) beat Durham (2) by an innings and 251 runs

NEXT Thursday, on a dowdy ground in a city that could hardly care less about cricket, Leicestershire will expect to win the county championship for the first time since 1975, and for only the second time in their history. This overwhelming victory, completed inside two days, has put them within inches of the summit. If they beat Middlesex at Grace Road, they can plant the pole.

It is not difficult to know what it will mean to the people of Leicester: zilch. The civic indifference to cricket was underlined by the decision of the city's evening paper not to cover this game, reckoning — no doubt correctly — that it was never going to knock rugby and football off the back page. Whitaker joked that there might be "50 or 60" people to welcome them home next week. Hello Leicester, is there anybody out there?

It will take a mighty effort by one of the teams behind them to scare off Leicestershire now. They bowled out Durham for 139 shortly before 6.00 last night to achieve a win by the little matter of an innings and 251 runs. It was the heaviest defeat in Durham's five-year championship history and, if they fail to beat Derbyshire next week, they will have gone through the season without a single victory.

Leicestershire have only to hold their nerve to finish top, and, though Middlesex will not roll over, as Durham did here, they will have to play uncommonly well to deny a side that has emerged as so much more than the sum of its parts. True to the workaday style of the side, their key performer yesterday was Wells, the journeyman all-rounder, who has contributed more fully with bat and ball this season than he could ever have dared dream.

Wobbling the ball around at a gentle medium pace, much as Simmons did on the first day, Wells ripped out three of the first four wickets after Whitaker declared Leicestershire's innings on 516 for six, a lead of 390. Simmons and Nixon shared 284 of those runs to establish a record sixth-wicket stand for the county, exceeding the 262 that Sharpe and Fowke made against Derbyshire in 1911.

By the time that Simmons became Campbell's first first-class victim, he had made 171 from 170 balls, striking 23 fours and two sixes with the ease of a man who has nothing to fear from the bowlers. Once again Durham's cricket was absolutely shameful as Simmons and Nixon milked 199 runs from the morning session.

Nixon reached a hundred of his own from 168 balls and, by the time the pair were parted, Whitaker knew that he had enough runs to win two matches against Durham, and unleashed his bowlers on a demoralised team. Comically, Campbell fell to the second ball of the innings, waving his bat at Millns to give Nixon the first of four catches.

When Wells was brought on, he was successful in his first over and picked up cheap wickets in the next two. Morris was the third man, caught capably "on the drive" by Millns at short extra cover. Morris made a sorry sight as he trudged off, silently and beyond consolation. He has made only 405 runs in the championship this year at an average of 15 and, midway through a six-year contract huge by cricketing standards, he and Durham must wish he had never left Derby.

Roseberry, another gifted strokeplayer who has found the transition to these uneven pitches troubling, was left in a helpless situation. After he gloved a pull to Nixon, to give Mullally his first wicket, the left-armer mopped up the tail with four of the last five, three of them clean bowled, and Leicestershire had no need to claim the extra half-hour.

Whitaker praised his team for their "clinical" cricket and it was certainly that. Cynical, too: Mullally booted the ball away after taking the last wicket and did nothing to dispel the impression that he is an unattractive chap. If Leicestershire do end the season as champions, is it possible for him to behave as a champion should?

☐ Northamptonshire edged to a first-innings lead over Lancashire at Northampton, thanks to a fluent 90 by Mel Loye, an unbeaten 85 by Kevin Curran and five successive half-century partnerships. Their impressive batting display took them to 357 for five in reply to Lancashire's 356.

SCOREBOARD

DURHAM: First Innings 126 (P V Simmons 6 for 14).

Second Innings

S L Campbell c Nixon b Millns	0
S Hutton lbw b Wells	17
†D G C Ligertwood lbw b Wells	9
J A Daley c Nixon b Wells	29
J E Morris c Millns b Wells	0
M A Roseberry c Nixon b Mullally	27
D A Blenkiron not out	23
M M Betts b Mullally	7
A Walker c Nixon b Mullally	0
*S J E Brown b Mullally	8
S J Harmison b Mullally	4
Extras (b 1, lb 8, nb 6)	15
Total	139

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-34, 3-41, 4-49, 5-90, 6-92, 7-99, 8-99, 9-121

BOWLING: Millns 8-2-24-1; Parsons 8-0-35-0; Wells 14-3-44-4; Mullally 15-5-27-5.

LEICESTERSHIRE: First Innings

V J Wells b Walker	28
D L Maddy lbw b Betts	82
B F Smith b Betts	70
G I Macmillan c Daley b Blenkiron	0
P V Simmons b Campbell	171
*J J Whitaker c Ligertwood b Brown	3
†P A Nixon not out	103
Extras (lb 10, w 5, nb 44)	59
Total (6 wkts dec, 99.2 overs)	516

A R K Pierson, G J Parsons, D J Millns and A D Mullally did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-61, 2-209, 3-212, 4-216, 5-232, 6-516

BOWLING: Brown 26-4-106-1; Betts 18-0-117-2; Walker 27-4-117-1; Harmison 9-1-77-0; Blenkiron 13-3-51-1; Campbell 6.2-1-38-1

Umpires: D J Constant and A A Jones

RUI VIEIRA

DeFreitas produced his best bowling performance for Derbyshire in an inspired spell against Warwickshire yesterday

Reckless Malcolm mars Derbyshire title hopes

By Simon Wilde

DERBY (second day of four): Derbyshire, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 200 runs ahead of Warwickshire

DEVON MALCOLM has had no greater friend this summer than Dean Jones, his county captain, who has carefully rebuilt his confidence from the ruins of his winter dispute with the England management. Yet, by bowling at Warwickshire's last-wicket pair on a helpful pitch yesterday as profligately and irresponsibly as he did at South Africa's in Cape Town last January, Malcolm has stretched Jones's patience to near breaking-point.

Redemption may come only in a match-winning second-innings spell and Malcolm's ability to deliver such a thing now hangs over this tense, absorbing match like a question-mark. If Jones did not know what was niggling Ray Illingworth before, he probably knows now.

Derbyshire, who must win the game to retain a hope of taking the championship, fought back with the bat — led by Jones at his grittiest and O'Gorman, who batted 50 overs for a fine 66 — but with one member of their three-man bowling attack such a dangerous uncertainty, neither side has the faintest idea who holds the upper hand.

Malcolm, who had responded superbly to Jones and taken 67 championship wickets this season, had not bowled yesterday when he was whistled up to separate Welch and Munton, DeFreitas and Harris having snapped up four wickets in an excellent first hour to leave Warwickshire tottering at 169 for nine, 73 behind. Malcolm's first ball almost took Welch's outside edge, but, apart from one good attempt at a yorker, he was not to come close to satisfying his captain again. Instead, he served up an array of inaccurate half-volleys that Welch and Munton dispatched with relish.

After four overs costing 34 runs, Jones withdrew him and, within 11 balls, Harris, his replacement, ended a stand worth 62 in 15 overs that had reduced Derbyshire's advantage to 11. The wicket of Welch, caught at point for 45, gave Harris three wickets for 63 while DeFreitas, who bowled unchanged through the innings, finished with seven for 101, career-best figures for the county. Malcolm's eight overs cost an incongruous 62, which must have been disheartening to his colleagues.

Derbyshire's hopes of batting their opponents out of the game were rudely interrupted by the rapid loss of Barnett, Rollins and Adams, but Jones and O'Gorman, who has played some invaluable innings since a knee operation delayed his first championship appearance until late June, dug in so effectively that Warwickshire were obliged to introduce spin.

The change worked. Jones falling to a leg-side stumping in Giles's third over. Gul Khan foolishly ran himself out and O'Gorman was beaten by a Brown inswinger shortly before the close, but, by the close, Derbyshire had increased their lead to 200. All things remain possible.

Surrey labour, page 44
Other scoreboards, page 44

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	L	D	Bt	Bl	Pts
Leics (7)	16	9	1	6	53	57	272
Surrey (12)	15	8	1	6	47	60	253
Essex (5)	15	8	3	4	54	55	249
Derbyshire (14)	15	8	2	5	50	54	247
Kent (18)	15	8	1	6	47	46	239
Yorkshire (8)	16	8	5	3	46	54	237

Points include bonus points and match points from the present round of games

DERBY SCOREBOARD

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 242 (C J Adams 80).

Second Innings

K J Barnett lbw b Small	14
A S Rollins b Munton	5
C J Adams c and b Munton	24
*D M Jones st Piper b Giles	39
T J G O'Gorman b Brown	66
G A Khan run out	4
†K M Krikken not out	14
P A J DeFreitas not out	12
Extras (lb 7, nb 4)	11
Total (6 wkts)	189

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-20, 2-26, 3-47, 4-128, 5-146, 6-175

BOWLING: Welch 11-1-38-0; Munton 25-7-50-2; Small 8-1-24-1; Brown 12-1-37-1 Burns 3-0-13-0. Giles 14-6-20-1.

WARWICKSHIRE: First Innings

N V Knight c Krikken b DeFreitas	54
A J Moles b Harris	28
W G Khan lbw b DeFreitas	1
M Burns b DeFreitas	0
T L Penney c Krikken b DeFreitas	12
D R Brown b DeFreitas	27
†K J Piper b DeFreitas	16
A F Giles c Krikken b Harris	9
G Welch c Khan b Harris	45
G C Small lbw b DeFreitas	0
*T A Munton not out	26
Extras (lb 5, nb 8)	13
Total (64.5 overs)	231

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-79, 2-88, 3-93, 4-96, 5-115, 6-142, 7-159, 8-159, 9-169.

BOWLING: Malcolm 8-0-62-0, DeFreitas 32-7-101-7, Harris 24.5-4-63-3.

Bonus points: Derbyshire 5 Warwickshire 5

Umpires: M J Kitchen and B Leadbeater.

Players give the rugby clubs more control

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

THE bitter dispute between the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the leading English clubs entered what may prove to be its final phase yesterday. An accord has been reached between the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) and the national squad which, taken to its logical conclusion, would deprive England of their best players for the foreseeable future.

The players' representatives met Epruc in London and, in effect, granted their club employers the right to deal with the RFU over their international careers. In doing so, they hope to resolve the dispute, one way or another, even at the possible cost of losing contracts with the RFU worth up to £70,000 for the eight-match international programme over the next ten months.

"We would be happy to release the players for training on Wednesday, or to play for England, on a friendly-independence basis," Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, said, "but this is the final chapter. We feel this must be settled so that we can all move forward."

The clubs take the view that they must make a stand now, for the sake of professional rugby's future, and the players have agreed with them.

The clubs have set October 11 as their departure date from the RFU, whether by common consent or not.

Centres of attention, page 45

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Cracks appear as ringmaster Bossi leads his troupe on independence trail

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN TURIN

AS THE leader of the Northern League, Umberto Bossi, began his three-day "March along the Po" last night to declare "independence" for northern Italy, there were signs that his demand for secession was causing splits within his party.

Irene Pivetti, the former parliamentary Speaker and the most high-profile League member after Signor Bossi, was expelled from the party for describing the League leader as a "destructive demagogue" who had single-handedly adopted a policy of secession for "Padania", the League's term for northern Italy, without consulting the rank and file. She said that most League members supported her in favouring a "less extreme" policy of local autonomy within a federal Italy.

Signor Bossi used a Murano glass container yesterday to collect water from an icy mountain stream at Pian del Re, the source of the Po, 6,500ft above sea level in the spectacular western Alps near Turin. The event is commemorated by the words "Padania-Po" and the date, carved on a small black granite slab nearby.

Later he attended a rally and fireworks display in Turin. He is taking the water and a handful of soil by helicopter, boat and catamaran to Venice — the proposed "capital" of Padania — where he will declare Padanian independence tomorrow.

But the mayors of the Cuneo region, where the source of the Po is situated, donned Italian tricolour sashes to issue a joint statement condemning secession and praising Italian unity. An opinion survey in Milan, published in *La Repubblica*, said that only 3.6 per cent supported secession, a drop from 6 per cent in July.

Signora Pivetti said she learnt of her expulsion from the television news. She said the march along the Po had become a "circus". Secession was Signor Bossi's personal view and had never been sanctioned by the party. "I cannot take this march seriously," she said. "This mystical worship of the God Po is offensive to me as a Catholic."

There was also dissent within the League over a call by Roberto Calderoli, secretary of the League in Lombardy, for teachers from southern Italy to be excluded from northern Italians schools to make way for "real Padanians". He said he was not a racist, but schools and the civil service had been "colonised by southerners".

The League gained a third of the vote in its northern strongholds in April's general election, but has no popular mandate for "independence". Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, said that the Government would not allow Italy "to go down the path of Czechoslovakia, let alone Yugoslavia", and pledged further investment in the South.

Signor Bossi said that there would be a "fully independent" Padania within a year, with its own parliament, currency, identity cards and militia. An embryo militia exists in the form of the party stewards, who all wear green shirts. *Corriere della Sera* said Signor Bossi's activities amounted to "a treasonable coup d'état".

Many anti-Bossi protests are planned for today, including a rally in Verona by the right-wing opposition Forza Italia, led by Silvio Berlusconi, the former Prime Minister, and one by the post-Fascist Alleanza Nazionale in Milan. Gianfranco Fini, its leader, said more people would turn out for his rally than for Signor Bossi's.

Key ministers quit sickbeds to clinch Kohl austerity win

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

MINISTERS were hauled from their sickbeds and backbench deputies were flattered, bullied and bought to protect Helmut Kohl's wide-ranging package of spending cuts, which yesterday scraped through the German parliament. Neither the rhetoric of the Social Democratic opposition — "social betrayal" — nor the shrill whistles of trade union demonstrators could topple the German Chancellor's majority.

At stake were four pieces of legislation that form an important component of Herr Kohl's £20 billion savings package: restrictions on sick-pay; a move to make it easier to dismiss workers; raising the retirement age; and changes in the health system. On Thursday, the Bundesrat — the upper house which represents Germany's 16 provincial states — vetoed the legislation. The chamber is dominated by the Social Democrats, and the block was predictable. The Government, however, was able to overturn the veto in the lower chamber by rallying 50 per cent of the House plus one additional member.

In practice, that meant Herr Kohl would lose not only the vote but the whole impetus for his modernising reforms if five deputies defected. In the end, party discipline held and the Chancellor won the day.

Drivers were ready at the crack of dawn to ferry Jochen Borchert, the Agriculture Minister, and Michael Glos, the Christian Social Union floor leader, from their convalescence after surgery to vote for a law that will shorten their paid sick-leave. Eastern German Christian Democrats blustered on the evening before the vote, but eventually swung behind the Chancellor after apparently securing a promise that there will be no big cuts in job creation schemes there.

The Whips betrayed signs of nervousness. Herr Kohl, sitting legs akimbo and sucking sweets, seemed cheerfully confident. But he must have remembered the near-fiasco of November 1994, when the parliament was supposed to take the purely symbolic step of confirming him in office after a general election. One little-known Christian Democrat deputy, Roland Richter, overslept and arrived with only minutes to spare. Herr Richter's career has not been flourishing since.

Kohl anxiously awaits the vote yesterday

The most symbolic piece of legislation to go through yesterday was the sick-pay reform. Until the amendments were passed yesterday, ill German workers were allowed six weeks off with 100 per cent pay. But compensation was based on the pay, overtime and bonuses received in the period before the sick-leave.

In many cases, workers could thus earn more by being ill than by turning up for work. Opel, the car manufacturer, for example, estimated that it paid about 120 per cent of basic pay to workers on sick-leave. The situation has become so critical that some companies engage private detectives to check on those registered as ill.

The Chancellor's amendments, which will now come into effect on October 1, aim to cut sick payment to 80 per cent of full pay. That should save companies hundreds of millions of marks a year — but it hits at one of the central pillars of the German welfare state, and has the trade unions up in arms. The strategic point is to ensure that Germany remains competitive with other Western countries, and to ensure a continual flow of inward investment. American companies in particular are becoming nervous about setting up factories in Germany where workers are so comprehensively protected.

REINHARD KRAUSE/REUTER

Chefs party: the Swiss team celebrates after winning the gold medal in the Berlin Food Olympics. More than 1,000 cooks from 30 countries took part. The Swiss edged out Norway with a rolled veal tenderloin and lamb roast

EU schism worries Redwood

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN AMSTERDAM

EU federalists who encourage regional devolution against national governments are playing with fire, John Redwood told a German and Dutch audience at the University of Amsterdam yesterday.

Referring to demonstrations in northern Italy this weekend, Mr Redwood said that EU governments and officials were making an alliance of convenience with regional separatists in the hope that splitting nation states would help in the creation of a federal Europe.

"I would advise them not to play with the fire of regional devolution against national authorities," he said. "Unthinking support for regional movements will tear states apart and help to create political parties which are hardly likely to want to submit to the rule of a bigger, European federal state."

Floating voter sees Bosnian victory for Abdic

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN VELIKA KLADUSA

☐ Almost three million Bosnian voters go to the polls today to elect a collective three-man presidency and national parliament, a president for the Serb Republic and separate assemblies for the Serb Republic and the Muslim-Croat Federation, as well as cantonal administrations.

AS HE votes today in the Bosnian elections, Ibrahim will be in a more objective frame of mind than many of his fellow Muslims.

In 1992, as a member of the Bosnian Army, he fought the Serbs. The next year he joined the forces of rebel businessman and politician, Fikret Abdic, whose self-styled autonomous fiefdom in this western Bosnian town allied with Serb forces and fought Muslim government troops of the 5th Corps in Bihac. After his capture, he joined the 5th Corps, and fought his erstwhile comrades. Captured again by the Abdic crowd, he switched sides. After another reversal, Ibrahim reverted his loyalties to the 5th Corps in time for the war's end that saw Mr Abdic and his men fleeing to Croatia. By the end of last year, he had seen the conflict from almost every angle.

Mr Abdic has since returned to the political front at the head of his Democratic People's Union. His supporters here seem certain to forgive him the defeats of yesterday and vote him into the Bosnian parliament. "It's a dangerous time to talk of politics," said Ibrahim, who at heart is still an Abdic supporter. "People talk of democratic elections but there is no democracy here.

"Look at the campaign here, you only see SDA posters of [President] Izetbegovic, yet probably 30,000 people of the 45,000 here shall vote for Abdic. Why?" He catalogues a list of intimidations and beatings against Abdic supporters by police who have quelled support for the politician.

The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which is running the polls, sees Velika Kladusa as a tinderbox of intra-Muslim hatred and one area for violence during the elections.

But Ibrahim disagrees. "Election day probably won't be too much problem as there will be many Nato troops here. But what afterwards? We all want Abdic to return [from Zagreb] because he offers us a better life but, if he does, there will be fighting. Ultimately the future of our peace, war and politics is all down to [President] Clinton. As far as Bosnians are concerned, God rules all of heaven, and America rules all on earth."

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Dole challenges Clinton to show medical records

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

SUCH a question would have been unthinkable of any previous President, but it has now been asked of Bill Clinton. Does he have venereal disease or Aids?

Reporters put the question to Mike McCurry, the White House press secretary, on Thursday after Bob Dole demanded to know why Mr Clinton was refusing to release his health records. "Good God, do you really want to raise that question? That's an astonishing question," Mr McCurry retorted before offering a firm denial. American journalists covering Mr Clinton's campaign trip agonised over whether to report the ground-breaking exchange, and many did not.

Mr Dole and his surrogates have been implying that the President is hiding something. They call his refusal to release anything more than summaries of his regular health checks a "mystery". They joke about hearing "pretty colourful guesses" as to what the records might contain. There have been oblique allusions to the allegations of womanising and drug abuse heaped on Mr Clinton by right-wing foes.

On Thursday Mr Dole stepped up his demand. "Let's have your health records, Mr President," he declared at a rally in Kentucky, and Mr McCurry was finally forced to respond. He accused Mr Dole of manufacturing an issue because he had "nothing else left". He argued that the White House released regular summaries of the President's health, but also had a duty to protect him from embarrassment and indignity. When pressed further, Mr McCurry snapped: "I'm talking about things like rectal exams, OK?"

It is unclear whether the Dole camp knows more than it is saying, but behind the sniping there is a serious issue. Numerous presidents have concealed illnesses. John Kennedy had Addison's disease, Dwight Eisenhower dissembled about a heart attack, and Franklin Roosevelt hid his rapidly failing health to win a fourth term.

Most recent presidents have allowed their physicians to discuss their health with journalists, but not this one. During the 1992 campaign, Lawrence Altman, a doctor who interviewed Presidents Reagan and Bush about their medical histories for *The New York Times*, wrote: "Mr Clinton has been less forthcoming about his health than any presidential nominee in the past 20 years."

Soon after taking office, Mr Clinton dismissed Burton Lee, the White House physician, reportedly because he refused to administer an allergy injection without first seeing the President's medical records.

Mr Dole has released all his records, but he is 73, a survivor of prostate cancer, and suffered war wounds that cost him a kidney and the use of his right arm. He had little choice if he was to persuade voters he was fit enough to take on the world's most demanding job.

Setback for treaty

Washington: A landmark treaty to eliminate chemical weapons around the globe became a victim of presidential politics yesterday when an embarrassed Clinton Administration was forced to shelve plans for its early ratification (Tom Rhodes writes).

Republicans in the Senate forced the White House to withdraw the measure after Bob Dole, the presidential nominee, set in motion a last-minute groundswell of opposition to the treaty. The Chemical Weapons Convention would require the US and other signatories to eliminate all poison gas weapons within ten years and shut any facility that could be used for their manufacture.

America has been the leading force behind worldwide negotiations for the treaty, completed by former President Bush in 1992. It has been signed by 160 countries, requires only two more endorsements, and is almost certain to go into force without American participation.

Jamie Rubin, the foreign affairs spokesman for the Clinton campaign, described the Republican action as a tragedy.

Israeli rocket raids in Lebanon

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

TENSION worsened on both sides of Israel's northern border yesterday as Israeli helicopters fired rockets at Hezbollah bases in southern Lebanon and Israeli troops responded to unusual movements among the 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon.

Hours before the helicopter attack, Israeli soldiers ambushed members of an Iranian-backed Hezbollah (Party of God) squad which had infiltrated the Israeli-held buffer zone in southern Lebanon. One of the guerrillas was killed.

The fighting was followed by Israeli artillery bombardment of targets north of the security zone.

A senior Lebanese Foreign Ministry official said Beirut was taking seriously a warning by Israel's proxy militia in south Lebanon of widescale Israeli retaliation if Hezbollah intensified its attacks on Israeli troops.

Faris Bouez, Lebanon's Foreign Minister, described the warning as blackmail aimed at forcing Lebanon to accept peace proposals put forward by the Government of Binyamin Netanyahu. "We reject this blackmail and threats aimed at dragging Lebanon to accept vague Israeli proposals," he added after talks in Damascus with President Assad.

The mysterious reports of widescale movements by Syria's occupying army in Lebanon caused alarm among Israelis about to begin celebrations of the Jewish New Year holiday, Rosh Hashanah.

REUTERS

'Picasso' found in drugs raid

Police in El Salvador yesterday mounted a 24-hour guard around this painting, which is thought to be by Picasso and was discovered during a raid on a restaurant in San Salvador, where a group of Colombians and Salvadoreans were doing a drugs deal. The supposed masterpiece was left behind by three men who fled (Gabriella Gamini in Bogotà writes). The painting is believed to have once belonged to Pablo Escobar Gaviria, the notorious Colombian drugs baron shot dead in 1993 by a Colombian anti-narcotics marksman.

WORLD SUMMARY

Island snub to China

Peking: The Japanese Government said yesterday it did not have the authority to stop right-wing protesters from setting up a lighthouse on a disputed island in the East China Sea (James Pringle writes).

A long-shelved sovereignty squabble between Japan, China and Taiwan over the uninhabited islands, known as the Diaoyus to Peking and Senkakus to Tokyo, broke out in July after the Japan Youth Federation raised the lighthouse, infuriating China and Taiwan, and prompting anti-Japanese demonstrations.

The Japanese right-wing group sailed to the islands again this week, repairing the aluminium lighthouse, damaged by a typhoon last month.

Tanzania hotel cashier killed

Dar es Salaam: Gunmen posing as tourists shot dead a hotel cashier in northern Tanzania, three days after armed bandits ambushed 25 Italian and American tourists in the nearby Serengeti National Park, according to sources at the Impala hotel in Arusha, where the shooting took place. The killing highlighted growing security problems around one of Africa's best-known game parks. *(Reuter)*

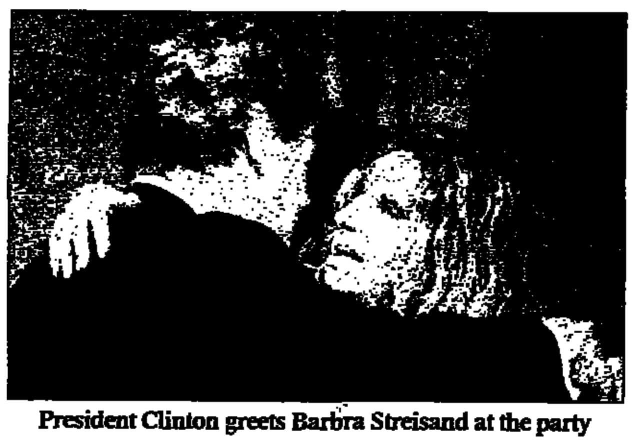
Russian missile launchers looted

Moscow: Mobile launchers for surface-to-air missiles at a defence unit near Moscow are paralysed because soldiers stripped off parts and sold them, a Defence Ministry official said. He refused to say how many launchers had been crippled and insisted the unit's effectiveness was intact. The stolen parts were valued at £1.4 million. *(AP)*

Burglar dies

New York: A burglar was crushed to death in an office here when a 600lb safe he was trying to steal toppled on to him (Quentin Letts writes). There were no valuables or cash in the safe.

President's Tinseltown groupies pay up and eat up


President Clinton greets Barbra Streisand at the party

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

"LIMOUSINE liberal!" yelled a lone Republican protester as the presidential motorcade purred through Beverly Hills towards the season's costliest dinner.

Had the grinning President not been deafened by his bulletproof glass he might have admitted it was partly true; nothing shorter than a limo passed muster at Thursday's $4 million (£2.6 million) fundraiser in his honour, held in the mansion where Francis Ford Coppola filmed some of *The Godfather's* goriest scenes.

Mr Clinton the candidate and Mr Clinton the film buff were one and the same as he thanked 1,000 of the wealthiest Democrats in showbusiness "from the bottom of my heart". Lured by the repartee of Tom Hanks and Barbra Streisand's now customary election year concert, they had raised four times as much in one night as Hollywood's Republicans have in the entire year. Sharon Stone, Michael Douglas, Robin Williams and a prominent British representative in the former *Monty Python's Flying Circus* member, Eric Idle, were among those paying up to $12,500 each for dinner with the First Couple. A $5,000 ticket bought a photo-opportunity with the President; $1,000 a mere back seat at the concert.

Performing on a full-size stage, set up in what was once Harold Lloyd's back garden, Ms Streisand set the evening's gushing tone with a new version of *The Way We Were*. "The White House won't permit a third-term president," she sang, "but with Al Gore/Maybe eight more" years of Democrats in the Oval Office would follow.

Mr Clinton singled out his favourite singer as "my friend", but it was David Geffen, the recording billionaire, who personified Hollywood's Democratic allegiance. Though he kept a low profile at the gala, he organised it and two intimate presidential dinner parties this year that raised $2 million from just 12 guests.

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Early enthusiasm for religious and political influence gives way to all-conquering march of trade

Wave of business invaders sweeps into Central Asia

FROM DAVID WATTS IN TASHKENT

Victorian spies Colonel Stoddart and Captain Conolly, right, are led in chains to the Emir of Bokhara's dungeon

THE "Great Game" in Central Asia has resumed with a new cast of characters lusting after the region's real and imaginary riches.

When British spies such as Captain Arthur Conolly and Colonel Charles Stoddart roamed the high steppes in the service of the British Empire, they had only the Russians to contend with. Today the spies are back, along with merchant adventurers and exporters of religion and revolution who are taking on all-comers.

There are vast oil and gas reserves to be exploited, not to mention the potential markets that are thriving now they are free of the economic slavery that came with Soviet power. Conolly and Stoddart came to a sticky end when they were beheaded at the behest of the Emir of Bokhara. Today's pundits face no such danger, but the economic consequences of failure could be grave.

Even allowing for crude Soviet-style standards of measurement, the quantities of gas and billions of barrels of oil that lie to the east of the Caspian Sea may dwarf the resources of the Middle East, with gold, coal, silver and copper adding to the heady mix. In the future, these energy reserves could be essential to maintaining world supplies with countries such as China swallowing quantities to make a conservationist blench.

But one thing has not changed since the days of the first Great Game — the difficulty of getting all those riches out. Tamerlane left India with thousands of horses laden with gold and jewels. Today the difficulty is in circumventing Mother Russia, who still feels that the area is her backyard. Pipes carrying gas under the Caspian Sea and in the opposite direction to the Chinese coast, costing anything up to £25 billion, are two of the latest brainwaves.

The nations neighbouring the region have been in the vanguard wooing Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan. Turkey and Iran have quickly sought influence in the region. With Turkic and Persian-related languages widely spoken and the common bond of Islam linking all the countries as well as widespread ethnic links, a "united nations of Central Asia" seemed to be in the making.

"We felt we were discovering our fatherlands," a senior Turkish diplomat said. The Turks quickly opened embassies and launched a communications satellite so that Turkish television could be seen throughout the republics as well as schools offering courses taught in Turkish, English and the vernacular languages.

Above all, the Turks believed they could offer a model of how a democratic, moderate, modern Islamic state could retain its character and build a fruitful relationship with Western countries. The Turks may have felt that they were rediscovering their spiritual roots from which they had been cut off since the days of the Ottomans, but, seen from Tashkent in Uzbekistan, the Turks' plans had more than a whiff of empire. The Turks, and others, were soon to discover that Central Asian countries, having just dispensed with one big brother, were in no hurry to find another. Also, the Turks were far too democratic for the likes of Uzbekistan's President Karimov and he resented their harbouring of Uzbek dissidents. He prefers the Chinese model of economic gain without too much political pain.

Just as the Turks are now willing to admit that they made mistakes in wooing Central Asia — few people can understand their television broadcasts and some of the educational links look suspiciously like some of the old Soviet ploys — so the initial Iranian drive for religious influence has been replaced by a more pragmatic interest in trade and the establishment of rail links and warm-water port outlets.

"The most visible countries, sending prime ministers, royalty and secretaries of defence have been the least effective," a senior Japanese diplomat said in Tashkent. Indeed, the ubiquitous South Korean cars are evidence of Seoul's success, and Tokyo has put relations in the hands of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry rather than the Foreign Ministry.

22m North Koreans living on starvation diet, says UN expert

FROM JAMES PRINGLE IN PEKING AND
CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

CHILDREN with protruding bellies and stick-like limbs can now be seen in North Korea, a United Nation official said in Peking yesterday.

The country was "definitely on a downward spiral", said Robert Hauser, who last month ended his duty as director of the UN World Food Programme in Pyongyang, the North Korean capital. He said that since last year the 22 million people were on a daily ration of 7oz of cereals.

His revelation of the crisis in North Korea coincided with the release of new projections that show rapid growth in population sizes in Asia increasing demand for food.

India's population is set to double to just under two billion by 2033, according to the Washington-based Population Research Bureau. It is rising by 19 million a year — roughly the population of Australia.

There are few credible government-backed birth-control programmes in India. The Government used to maintain a digital population clock at a busy intersection in Delhi, which clicked over so fast the figures were a blur. The clock constantly blew its circuits.

China's population reached 1.2 billion at the end of last year and could rise to 1.3 billion by the end of the century if families defy the one-child family planning policy.

Mr Hauser, speaking of the North Korean crisis, said: "If you go into the countryside you see only skinny people. Many children have pot-bellies, stick-like arms, visible ribs — symptoms of malnutrition. This year they may just make it, but next year the crisis will be worse."

Floods in July destroyed 10 per cent of crops, aggravating the food shortage after last year's severe inundation, the worst this century.

Despite a plea for international help, little more than token aid had arrived. Analysts say Stalinist North Korea has only itself to blame. No journalists are permitted to view the devastation caused by the floods in the security-sealed state and no pictures appear of hungry children — the kind of photographs that, in Ethiopia for example, evoked worldwide concern.

In recent years North Korea has been able to produce only 3.5 million tonnes of grains, well below the 4.8 million tonnes required to meet minimum nutritional needs, the UN estimates.

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Bonn is getting steamed up over system that allows taxpayers free treatment every three years

On-tap spa cures dry up

BADEN-BADEN FILE

by MICHAEL KALLENBACH

ONCE the playground of European aristocracy, German health spas have until recently been virtually a way of life for millions of ordinary citizens. But that is soon to change, and now the mere mention of the word *Kur* (cure) has become controversial.

The Government is no longer willing to support a system that lets taxpayers take a free, four-week spa treatment every three years to repair tired and aching bodies, in addition to allowing generous annual holiday entitlements. By curbing the number of weeks Germans may undertake a *Kur*, Helmut Kohl, the sauna-loving Chancellor, hopes to save some DM3.6 billion (£1.5 billion) a year.

While Germany might have more spas than any other country, it has not necessarily made its people any healthier. Sweeping away mental cobwebs and uplifting the spirit through a regimen of physical therapy and gentle amusements have not convinced Germans to give up drinking, smoking or eating the way they do. One need only glance at Herr Kohl, who flees to Austria several times a year for a special diet break.

There is no doubt that Baden-Baden has lost much of its glamour, yet it still tries to cash in on its long-faded past, when European royalty used to spend the summer season here gurgling amidst the volcanic spring waters and walking their dogs along the fashionable and leafy Lichtentalerallee, next to the man-made stream.

Queen Victoria had a villa here, but this has since been torn down; the English church has also gone, replaced by one for the German Lutherans. Edward VII was a regular guest and was flattered when Bad Homburg, another famous spa town not far from Frankfurt, was named after his penchant for wearing that town's style of hat.

But nowadays it is the Russians who are trying to revive much of the town's former glory. A local resident, Renate Effern, is busy writing a tome on the influence Russians had on the town and predicts an influx of Russian visitors in the coming years. It was all started by Tsar Aleksandr I, who stopped off in the area on his way to Paris in 1813 to sign a peace treaty, having driven Napoleon out of Russia. He brought with him his rich aristocratic officers, who later came back to Baden-Baden to build palatial homes and villas. Undoubtedly, the wealthiest of the Russians at the time was Prince Menshikov, who flagrantly disobeyed the rules and drove his chariot along the Lichtentalerallee. When local police accosted him, he threw gold coins at them and they simply looked the other way. But not only the wealthy and frivolous came to enjoy the hot thermal springs. Both Dostoevsky and Turgenev set part of their respective novels, *The Gambler* and *Smoke*, in Baden-Baden.

FOCUS

Visitors take the waters at elegant Baden-Baden. For many Germans, spa treatments are a way of life

Masters of the fast lane

FAST and fancy cars continue to arrive in Baden-Baden every weekend, and their German owners are looking rather smug. Yet another survey, designed to flatter the German driver, has appeared out of the blue. For the second year running, Germans have voted themselves the best drivers in Europe. While there is general agreement that they certainly abide by the rules of the road, the overall results of the survey are slightly surprising since drivers on the autobahn know no speed limits. Ironically, the survey hails former East Germans as the best of the nation's drivers — particularly those who own cars that are more than 35 years old.

New-style gamblers cultivated

GERMANS are proud of their casinos: Marlene Dietrich said the one in Baden-Baden was the world's most beautiful.

Profits from gambling have helped to restore cathedrals and town halls; they even helped to finance the 1972 Olympics in Munich. But in Baden-Baden the needs are different and they help to pay for mowing the lawns, tending the flowerbedsand tree trimming.

The casino's director is Baron Hartmann von Richthofen, a nephew of Baron Manfred — the famous "Red Baron" who shot down 80 allied warplanes in the First World War — and a cousin of the former German Ambassador to the Court of St James's.

Unlike the old days, casinos can no longer rely on royalty to bolster their earnings. Nowadays, members of the new Russian elite are regularly seen on the casino circuit.

Spanish 'football widows' tackle TV match mania

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPANISH "football widows" are striking back. Weary of being scorned in favour of televised soccer by their couch-potato husbands and boyfriends, a group of purposeful señoras have formed a national "Association of Women Abandoned for Football".

Their objectives are to reclaim household television sets, and bring those daft men back to their senses.

Football mania is relentless in Spain this month. As a result of a patchwork of deals concluded recently between clubs and television channels, a match is now broadcast live every night of the week except Friday. This expanded coverage, which enslaves most men to the set between 8pm and 10pm, is believed to be worth 220,000 million pesetas (more than £1 billion) to the football clubs over a seven-year period.

Naturally, marital discord is reaching dizzy heights, with husbands less inclined to be uxorious while the season is in progress. Cases have been recorded of men beating spouses for switching channels or for objecting to the raucous presence at home of "a few mates".

As a result, the "abandoned women's" association, founded by Madrid bar-owner Margarita Peces, has decided to "do something". Executive members meet at her bar on match nights to discuss strategy. "We will soon see who abandons whom," Señora Peces threatens darkly.

Inspired by their example, women are beginning to be more assertive. A Madrid cleaner, Margarita, 57, said: "At my age there's no point in threatening to kick my husband out of bed. But I have refused to make him fried peppers and Spanish omelette for dinner, things he likes to eat in front of the set." Other women have gone on ironing and shopping strikes, or have defiantly sold the family set while their husbands are at work. Several have stopped cooking until a second television is bought.

The Restaurant Federation of Spain is also complaining. "We could lose up to a third of our takings this year because of football," said a spokesman, adding: "We will have to lay off waiters and cooks soon."

Bar owners have issued a warning that they will boycott the products of companies that advertise on television during football matches. Agustin Vidaurreta, a Barcelona barman, said: "There are a few beers that we have stopped stocking already. We have to fight this football madness any way we can."

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■ OPINION

What was the point of recreating Shakespeare's Globe if we don't want to get closer to his type of theatre?

■ POP

They should sound terribly dry. But Skunk Anansie turn out to be an intriguing prospect in performance

THE TIMES ARTS

■ PROMS

The Albert Hall resounds to mesmerising sounds from Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony

■ BASE NOTES

Judi Dench is set to return to the National Theatre to star in David Hare's new play, *Amy's View*

It's the real thing, but who cares?

IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Can there be any concept that divides the arts world so comprehensively as that dread word "authenticity"? I don't mean divide in the sense that everybody argues about it all the time. I mean that the question of authenticity — of whether the punter is being offered the genuine article or a fake — matters hugely in some cultural spheres, and not a whit in others. Very confusing, but very revealing too.

Let's recall what might be called the "authentic sensitive" areas. First, there is the visual-art market, which is based on the illogical but unshakeable premise that a genuine Old Master should be worth millions more than an imitation, no matter how superb the latter's quality. What's more, there is a quite separate (and deliciously vicious) debate in the museum world at present about how much an old painting should be "restored" to its supposedly original colours, or how legitimate it is to "mend" broken fragments of ancient sculptures.

So in the visual arts the question of authenticity is paramount nearly all the time. If you doubt that, try pickling your own dead sheep and see if a Cork Street art dealer offers you the sort of price that Damien Hirst gets for his. In the art business, as in high fashion, it's the label that counts.

Much the same questions of authenticity were faced in the music world 20 years ago. Indeed, when the first recordings emerged of Bach and Handel played in painstakingly revived 18th-century style, sympathetic critics invariably wrote of "scraping off the varnish" from the music. Unsympathetic critics, of course, complained that it was the emotion which was being scraped off.

But the authenticity lobby carried the day. Today you rarely hear Baroque music played professionally on anything except period instruments, and they have continued their advance into the 19th-century repertoire. The composer's word is law; banished forever are the wilful "improvements" of earlier generations. It's been a revolution, and often a revelation. Far from restricting emotion, period-instrument ensembles have set new standards in virtuosity and pathos.

So why does another large sector of the arts regard the idea of authenticity as laughable? I refer to what happens in our theatres. This autumn the Royal Opera is staging Wagner's *Ring*. It will be a bizarre and incongruous occasion. In the pit, the great conductor Bernard Haitink will strain every sinew to capture faithfully Wagner's late-Romantic sound-world. But on stage will be a production that bears about as much relation to Wagner's detailed stage instructions as I do to Zorba the Greek.

The Royal Opera is only tamely following the pattern around the world. You could go to the opera every night for a year, in a dozen countries, and never once see Mozart, Verdi or Wagner staged as the composer might have recognised.

It is claimed that such self-important "concept" stagings bring in new, younger audiences by making the operas "relevant". The reverse is true. "Designer opera" is so stuffed full of in-jokes and nudge-nudge post-modernism that it alienates first-timers. That's why many people (including top conductors) now prefer opera in concert rather than on stage. At least punters can enjoy the tunes without wondering whether Mimi is about to overdose on heroin.

In the spoken theatre, too, the same process has happened. Surely the point of scrupulously recreating Shakespeare's Globe was to take us nearer to the performing tradition that embraced Shakespeare. Alas, such a notion appears risible to those running the Globe. And to many drama critics as well.

The general feeling is that any attempted authentic staging is bound to be artificial and twee: exactly the same argument that was advanced, and utterly routed, in the music world two decades ago. Instead, we will probably see the same diet of spurious Shakespeare updatings at the Globe as everywhere else. A unique opportunity will be squandered.

I am not pleading that every Shakespeare production casts boys in the women's roles, or that every Wagner staging presents enormous ladies in Viking helmets. I just wish that, now and then, somebody had the boldness to show us how stage gesture, speech cadences and costumes would have worked in the author's day. After all, the scholarship already exists: it's gathering dust in libraries.

Unfortunately, ambitious young directors realise that they can make headlines by beating up the classics. And many older directors regard the author's text merely as vehicles for their own majestic egos. Perhaps they also think that if the same old repertoire is constantly being "reinvented" by eye-popping stagings, this will cover up the sad truth that there are so few new plays or operas that the public will pay to see.

But classics are classics; they need no help from New Luvvies on the Block. Present the texts with a proper sense of style, and audiences will find revelations for themselves. Otherwise posterity will look back on the late 20th century and say: "Ah yes, those were the people who dared to muck around with the masterpieces of earlier generations because they *didn't* have the wit to devise masterpieces of their own." We have three years to prove posterity wrong.

POP: **Stephen Dalton** finds strident polemics much more accessible on stage; plus, rewind to 1964

Teeth of their Skin

Skunk Anansie
Astoria

In theory, Skunk Anansie should be a terribly dry prospect. A heavy-rock outfit led by a black, bald, bisexual singer who favours sledgehammer sloganeering over lyrical subtlety, the London-based quartet sound like the contrived creation of politically correct extremists bent on delivering a Trojan horse to pop music.

But in the flesh, fortunately, they are a much more rounded and intriguing affair. Not only does their captivating, androgynous singer Skin temper her politicised rants with witty lyrics about sex and heartache, but her three musical cohorts also spice their grinding rock riffs with flashes of funk, reggae and ragged blues.

Although some might perceive it as a disadvantage, this very eclecticism has almost certainly been the making of Skunk Anansie. Their Astoria crowd was mostly comprised of cosmopolitan sophisticates who would never normally waste time on anything as unfashionable as heavy rock. Skin's lesbian following was very much in evidence, as was a significant minority of black faces: both rare sightings in the deeply conservative, white-male bastion of heavy metal.

Live shows are undeniably Skunk Anansie's forte. Whereas their thrashing guitars and Skin's shrill vocals can sometimes sound jarringly one-dimensional on record, they made perfect sense booming across the packed hall of the Astoria.

The most rapturously received tasters from their forthcoming second album, *Stoosh*, were those combining simple melodic structures with compelling terrace-chant hooklines, such as the current single *I Want You* and the roaringly anthemic *She's My Heroine*. Indeed, both proved almost as popular as familiar live favourites such as *Weak* and *Charity*. Perhaps this is because all these compositions share the same basic format, alternating between softly lilting passages and volcanic guitar surges in an elastic style reminiscent of Nirvana at their most accessible.

When they diverted from this formula, the results were less engaging. Another new song entitled *Infidelity (Only You)* attempted a gentler approach, introducing slinky funk rhythms and taped string accompaniments, that left most people unmoved. Which is a shame, because often it is Skin's more vulnerable and tender interludes which set this band apart from their noisy peers.

But no matter, because Skunk Anansie's star will surely continue to rise, mainly thanks to Skin herself. A hyperactive livewire on stage, the charismatic singer excelled herself at the Astoria, diving into the crowd several times before yanking delighted fans up into the limelight for an energetic encore of *Little Baby Swastikkka*. This sudden burst of spontaneous audience participation boosted excitement levels an extra notch, polishing off this enjoyable show on a good-natured high.

LINDSAY MAGGS

Head and heart: Skin — bald, bisexual and fiercely committed — is a hyperactive livewire in live performance

When we were fab, not fat

Salute to the Sixties
Wembley Arena

TO THE several thousand over-forties present last Wednesday, this was at once an exhilarating and terrifying occasion. To see so many of the heroes and heroines of your adolescence assembled, reproducing the anthems which accompanied the first kiss, the first break-up, the first time you got drunk . . . Even if it had not been in a good cause, organised by the Variety Club of Great Britain, it would have been irresistible.

But there were spectres at this feast. For every Jess Conrad, Julie Rogers, Twinkle, Vernons Girl, John Leyton or Mike Berry — trim, fit, tanned and youthful — there was a Brian Poole, Wayne Fontana, Peter Sarstedt or a member of Marmalade: they sounded right, but were variously grown grizzled or bald or overweight or all three. Surely that cannot be how we, their contemporaries, appear to others?

Younger readers will get some idea of the atmosphere if they imagine the scene, 30 years hence, when Pulp, Blur, Suede, Louise, Sonia, Take That, Bros and East 17, along with a dozen lesser lights, are wheeled out for a charity show. Twenty-five acts hustled on and off the stage in about four hours. As haphazard musically as sartorially, the acts were performing without fee, which is commendable (they did all receive an award); a few sounded as though they were performing without rehearsal.

Some were astonishing; they included Julie Rogers with *The Wedding*, John Leyton and *Johnny Remember Me* (with Maggie Stredder of the Vernons Girls), Reg Presley and his Troggs with *Wild Thing*, the Merseybeats with *Sorrow*, Dozy, Beaky, Mick and Tich (Dave Dee was not missed) with *Hold Tight* and *Legend of Xanadu*, Mike Pender's Searchers with *Needles and Pins*, Dave Berry with *The Crying Game* and Marmalade with *Reflections*. It was as though we had all been locked in since the place was called the Empire Pool.

The best moment was when Twinkle, magnificently blonde, svelte and youthful, launched into the doomed-biker saga, *Terry*. She was backed by the Four Pennies, who had been murdering their own back-catalogue, but who suddenly found the right notes. Briefly, it was 1964 all over again.

TONY PATRICK

BBC PROMS: Chicago shines

Big sound of the city

Chicago SO/ Barenboim
Albert Hall/Radio 3

LAST but emphatically not least of the major orchestras to visit the Proms this season was the Chicago Symphony, which on Thursday gave superlatively fine performances of Schoenberg and Bruckner under its music director, Daniel Barenboim. Both composers benefit from the band's well-upholstered sound and the technical brilliance of its players.

Barenboim and the orchestra made bold, mesmerising statements in Schoenberg's early atonal masterwork, *Five Pieces for Orchestra*. The nervous energy of the opening *Premonitions* came across, but a refined string section underlined its lyricism, too. In conjuring up the *Past* that followed, every note was made to tell, but all were joined in long-breathed, flowing lines. Barenboim was at his eloquent best in the hypnotically shifting, slow third piece.

The orchestra's splendid brass players got their first chance to shine in the exploding fanfares of the fourth piece, and all combined in a tightly logical performance of the final contrapuntal fantasy.

In Bruckner's Eighth Symphony, Barenboim showed that he is now as strong dealing with long symphonic spans as he has always been on dramatic incident, and he took an expansive but never slack view of the opening movement, while still pointing up seldom-heard details.

At every turn in Bruckner's massive symphony, there was playing to savour: most memorably, the serene cello theme of the Adagio, at once radiant and mournful, the incandescent upper strings at the close of that movement, and the sonorous brass that launched the finale so powerfully. But it was what Barenboim did with the sounds that mattered. He shaded the Adagio with subtlety, gradually gathering the music up in its steady progress towards a summit that was searingly intense, and the solemn finale had true Brucknerian spirituality.

JOHN ALLISON

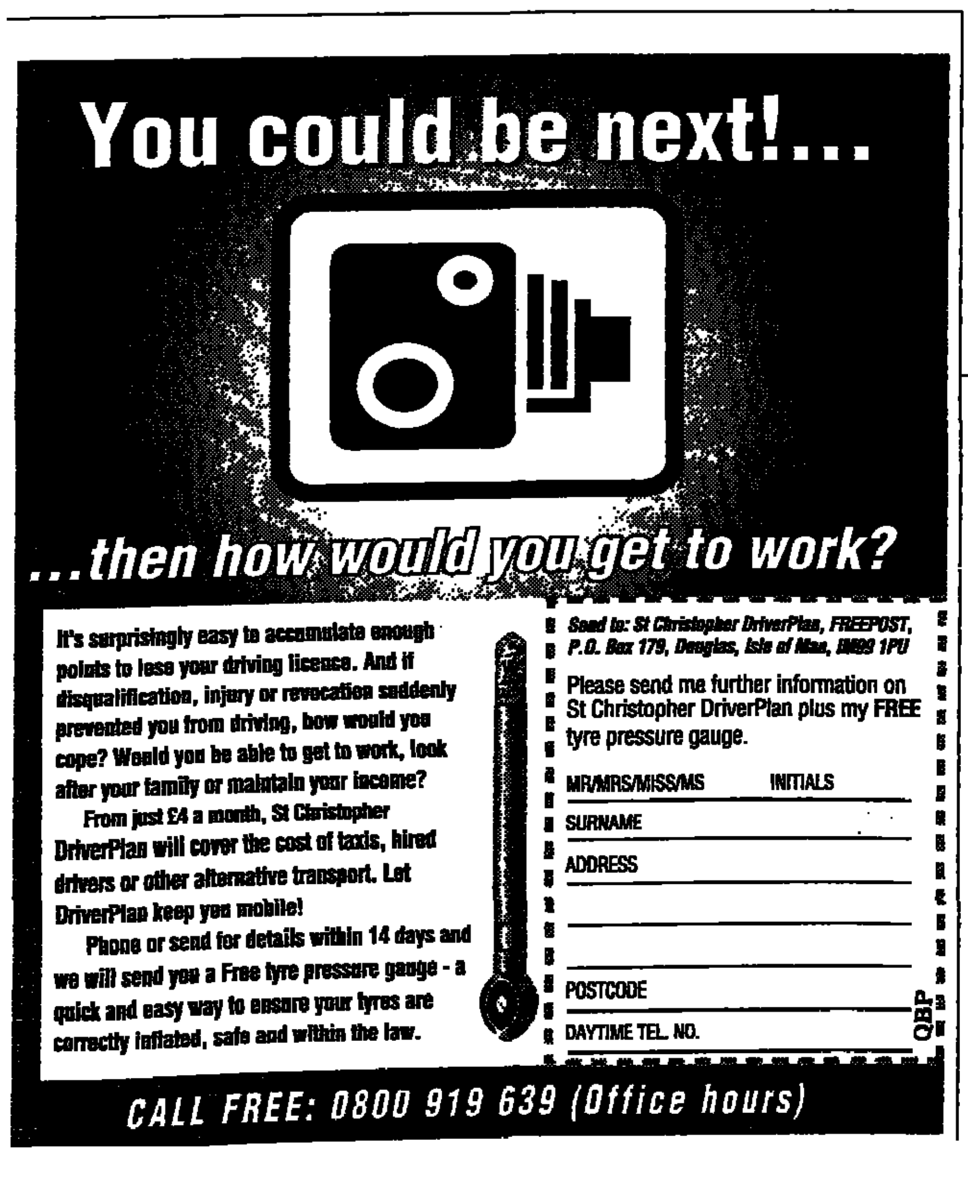
BASE NOTES

NEVER short of an opinion or two, the American comedian **Jackie Mason** is to subject the Oxford Union to one of his marathon monologues next month. The diminutive Borscht Belt star, whose one-man show *Love Thy Neighbour* is still pulling in audiences on Broadway, will speak at the Union on October 29, two days after he plays a one-night stand at the London Palladium, and the day after performing at a Royal Variety Performance. Stand-up comedy's answer to Ross Perot, Mason has attracted controversy for his outspoken comments on political correctness. Union president Jenny Carter-Manning is coy about the subject of Mason's address, but it's expected that O.J. Simpson — who made a controversial appearance before the same audience earlier this year — will be high on the agenda.

● FRESH from her triumphant year-long run in *A Little Night Music*, **Judi Dench** is already planning her return to the National Theatre. The actress will star in **David Hare**'s next play, *Amy's View*, which opens in June 1997 at the Lyttelton. Dench has appeared in Hare's *Wetherby* on screen and *Saigon: Year of the Cat* on television, but *Amy's View* marks her first appearance in a Hare stage play. The director is long-time Hare collaborator **Richard Eyre**; **Bob Crowley** designs.

● **Jez Butterworth**'s award-winning play *Mojo* is coming to the screen, directed by the 27-year-old playwright. The six-week shoot will start on November 4 on the film, which is set in 1950s Soho. The stars are **Ian Hart** and **Jim Broadbent**. A premiere is hoped for at the Cannes Film Festival next May.

● FOR the first time since *Jesus Christ Superstar* in 1971, **Andrew Lloyd Webber** is opening a musical on Broadway and not in the West End. His adaptation of the novel and film *Whistle Down the Wind* has announced an April 17 opening at New York's Martin Beck Theatre, following a nine-week try-out in Washington, DC. **Harold Prince** directs.



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Thu 19 Sept 7.30pm

London Symphony Orchestra
Mstislav Rostropovich *conductor*
Maxim Vengerov *violin*
Shostakovich Violin Concerto No 2, Symphony No 11
'[Vengerov's] ravishing tone parallels Perlmans'
The Daily Telegraph £8, £10, £14, £18.50, £22, £30

From Fri 20 Sept

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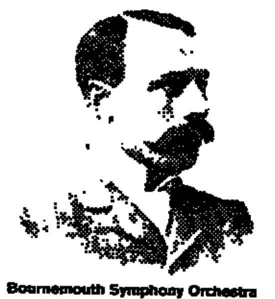

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra
Richard Hickox conductor

Friday 20 September at 8.00pm
The Dream of Gerontius

Saturday 21 September at 7.30pm
The Apostles

Sunday 22 September at 4.00pm
The Kingdom

Soloists include **Jean Rigby, John Aler, Peter Coleman-Wright, Susan Chilcott, Linda Finnie, Adrian Thompson, Stephen Roberts** and **Matthew Best.**

Great British Orchestras also includes concerts by the **Royal Scottish National Orchestra** with **Alexander Lazarev** *(28 Sept)*, **BBC National Orchestra of Wales** with **Mark Wigglesworth** *(30 Sept)* and **City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra** with **Sir Simon Rattle** *(4 Oct, 22 Nov)*.

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Mark Ermler conductor
Works by **Mussorgsky** and **Prokofiev**

Mon 28 Oct 7.30pm

Danish National Radio Symphony Orchestra

Ulf Schirmer conductor
Works by **Sørenson**, **Beethoven** and **Nielsen**

Sun 3 Nov 3.30pm

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra

John Eliot Gardiner conductor
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Michael Tilson Thomas conductor
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Sat 28 Sept 7.30pm

Royal Scottish National Orchestra
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Mon 30 Sept 7.15pm

BBC National Orchestra of Wales
Great British Orchestras Mark Wigglesworth *conductor*

From Wed 2 Oct

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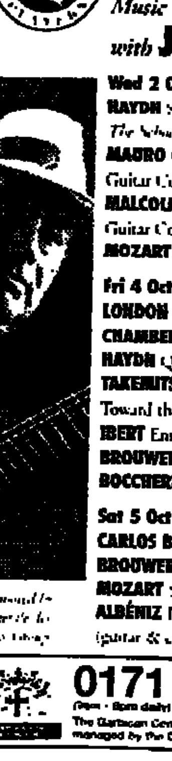

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Wed 2 Oct 8.00pm, Barbican Hall
HAYDN Symphony No.55 in E flat, *The Schoolmaster*
MAURO GIULIANI Guitar Concerto in A Op.30
MALCOLM ARNOLD Guitar Concerto Op.67
MOZART Symphony No.39 in E flat, K543

Fri 4 Oct 8.00pm St Giles, Cripplegate
LONDON MOZART PLAYERS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE
HAYDN Quartet in D, Op.2 No.2
TAKEMITSU Toward the Sea for guitar and alto flute
IBERT Entracte for flute and guitar
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Sat 5 Oct 8.00pm Barbican Hall
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MOZART Symphony No.29 in A, K201
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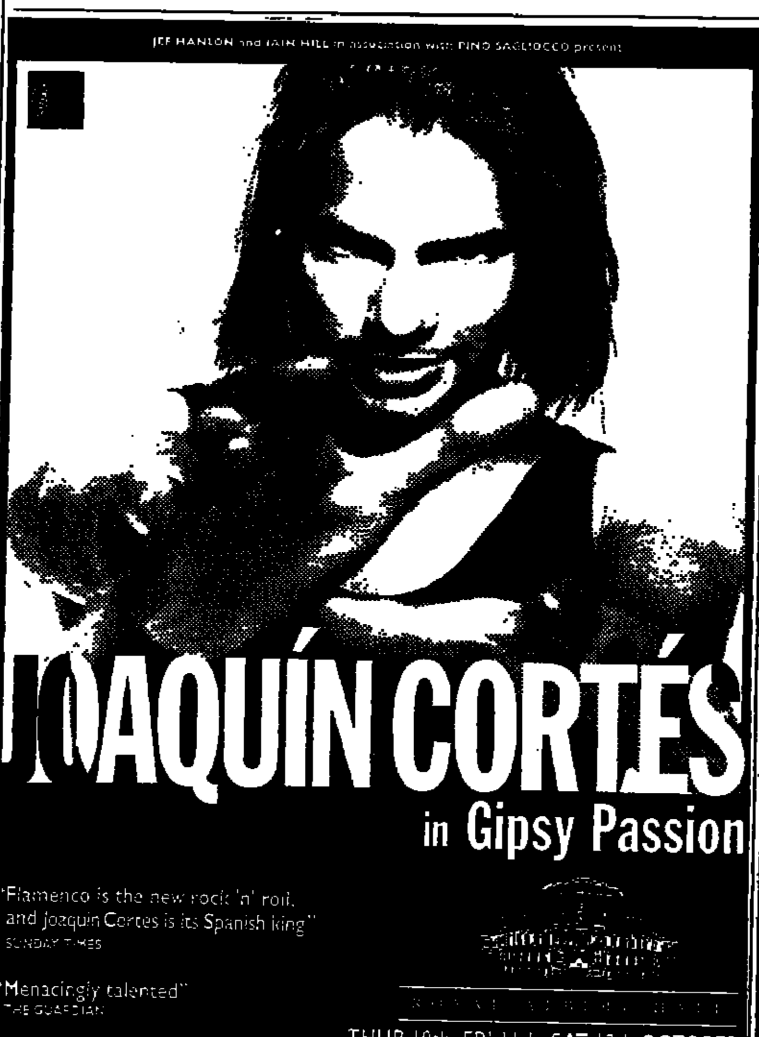

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Sun 15 Sept 11.30am NB: time	**SKAMPA QUARTET** Coffee Concert Škampa Quartet Residency Haydn: String Quartet in D minor Op.76 No.2 Ravel: Quartet in F (1902-3) £7 incl. programme & coffee/sherry/juice Wigmore Hall
Sun 15 Sept 7.00pm NB: time	**SOLOISTS OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE ORCHESTRA** BERNARD HAITINK director. Mozart: Oboe Quartet in F K370 Wagner: Siegfried Idyll; Stravinsky: The Soldier's Tale (Robert Tear as The Soldier, The Devil & The Narrator) £12, £10, £8, £6 Park Lane Group
Mon 16 Sept 7.30pm	**LAKE PIANO TRIO** Beethoven: Trio in C minor Op.1 No.3 Wilfred Josephs: Trio No.2 Op.177 (world première) Shostakovich: Trio No.2 Op.67 £12, £10, £8, £6 Anglo-European Arts
Tues 17 Sept 7.30pm	**JOJI HATTORI** violin; **BRUNO CANINO** piano Kreisler: Praeludium & Allegro; Mozart: Sonata in C K303 Beethoven: Sonata in E flat Op 12 No.3; Brahms: Sonata No.2 in A Op.100; Debussy: Sonata in G minor; Saint-Saëns: Intro & Rondo Capriccioso Op.28 £14, £12, £9, £6 Harold Holt Ltd
Wed 18 Sept 7.30pm	**ANGELA HEWITT** piano Bach: Partita No.2 in C minor BWV826; Beethoven: Sonata in C Op.2 No.3; Schumann: Scenes from Childhood Op 15 Albéniz: Suite espagnole, Messiaen: Regard de l'Esprit de Joie £14, £12, £9, £6 Michael Webber Promotions
Thurs 19 Sept 7.30pm	**IVRY GITLIS** violin; **ANA-MARIA VERA** piano Hindemith: Sonata in E flat Op.11 No.1; Beethoven: Sonata in A Op.47 *Kreutzer*; Bartók: Sonata; Bloch: Nigun from *Baal Shem* Sarasate: *Zigeunerweisen* Op.20 Sponsor: Ian Stoutzker OBE £15.00, £12.50, £10.00, £7.50 Centre for Young Musicians
Fri 20 Sept 7.30pm	**PALLADIAN ENSEMBLE** Early Music & Baroque Series P Thorby recorder, R Podger violin, S Heinrich viola da gamba, W Carter lutes, guitar. "Stylus Phantasticus" – Sonatas and Suites by Matteis, Cima, Merula, Salaverde, Biber, Schmelzer, Marini, Bertali, Forqueray & Rebel £14, £12, £9, £6
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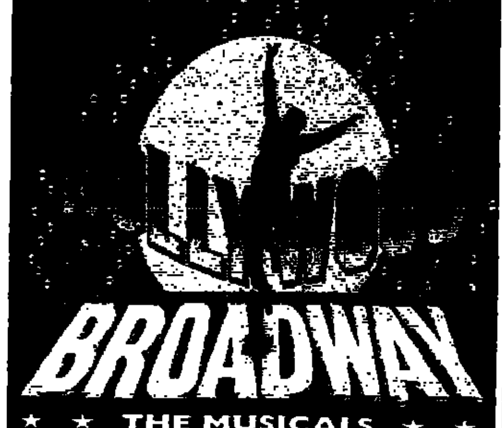

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■ OPERA

ENO finds an appealing Violetta in Rosa Mannion, but that's not enough to save its new *La traviata*

■ GOING OUT

From Erwin Blumenfeld's gorgeous pictures of the grand and glamorous at the Barbican...

THE TIMES ARTS

■ GOING OUT

... to Stewart Parker's remarkable play *Pentecost* at the Donmar, all the top events are in Weekend, page 14

■ MONDAY

Why Hollywood hunk Kurt Russell is making decisions behind the camera these days

OPERA: **Rodney Milnes** finds ENO's brilliant Violetta let down by wrong-headed musical direction

Nipped in the musical bud

DONALD COOPER

Compulsive consumptive: John Hudson (as Alfredo) cradles the remarkable Rosa Mannion (as the dying Violetta) in ENO's new *La traviata*

La traviata
Coliseum

It is hard to write rationally about English National Opera's new *Traviata* in the context of a musical performance so mannered, dreary and plain wrong-headed, but here goes.

At least the essential ingredient for any staging is safely in place: a quite remarkable Violetta. Purely physically, Rosa Mannion might have been born to portray this doomed consumptive. She is tiny and looks fragile, vulnerable, hugely appealing. The director Jonathan Miller takes grateful advantage of this in his Medically Correct reading: breathlessness rather than mere stage-coughing in the first act, and a bedridden last act in which she has not even the strength to sit up unaided when Alfredo returns.

I know she has to sing as well, but how cleverly Mannion suggests breathlessness through Verdi's phrasing in "Gran Dio! morir si giovane". This Violetta's unsparingly realistic death spasms are almost too painful to witness.

And Mannion's voice is as appealing as her presence, essentially soft-grained and sweet but with real strength and body in the middle-to-upper reaches. She shapes the lines with inborn eloquence and understanding: her account of "Addio del passato" (both verses, hooray) went straight to the heart, both of Verdi's music and that of the audience. Ideally one wants a little more edge to the tone for the hysteria of the first act, and she could make more of the words of Edmund Tracey's faithful, tactfully revised translation, but this was her first Violetta, already a sterling achievement, and she will get better and better.

Miller's production is simplicity itself, in a plain box set by Bernard Culshaw minimally adapted to suggest four locations, and period costumes by Clare Mitchell that look really lived-in, without a whiff of Gainsborough Pictures daintiness. The society against which the drama is played out is of stultifying bourgeois respectability, but do the party scenes suggest strongly enough the corruption, the hypocritical empty-headedness beneath the surface?

But Miller and the American baritone Christopher Robertson — making his house debut — get Father Germont absolutely right: not a villain, just a stuffy, thoughtless old man who thinks he is doing the right thing. His son Alfredo is also a bit of a stick, but John Hudson sings the role beautifully, with long, unbroken lines warmly moulded. Baron (Ashley Holland), Doctor (Andrew Greenan), Marquis (Roberto Salvatori) are neatly sketched in. It is a production that leaves everything to the music.

Alas, the music simply is not there, and I am not just referring to the cuts and omissions in a lazy version of the text very much out of joint with the spirit of the times. Nowadays we tend to pay Verdi the compliment of performing what he wrote, and once you start tinkering with so carefully crafted a score, the whole dramatic structure starts to wobble.

Not that there was much drama of any kind in Steven Mercurio's reading. It is not just that most of his tempos were leadenly slow; he indulged in sentimental ritardandos towards the end of almost every musical paragraph and the music limped disastrously. He also applied "art" to Verdi's big-boned lines, little tenutos and catches of musical breath, and the effect was insufferably twee: not even the Admiralty, as one of those Hermiones once said, could be so arch. The overall musical picture was soft-edged, precious and sentimental, not adjectives normally associated with Verdi. I thought it perfectly horrible.

MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

Richard Cork continues his daily series on the glories of the British Museum's magnificent Mysteries of Ancient China show

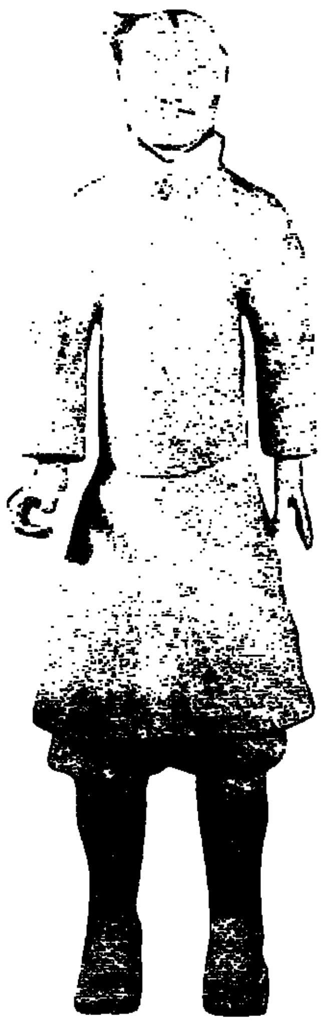

FIGURE OF A SOLDIER

ARRESTING in itself, this tall (187cm) clay figure once formed part of a terracotta army of 6,000 soldiers made for the mausoleum of the First Emperor in the 3rd century BC. Their discovery in 1974 caused a sensation.

This soldier was originally painted in brilliant colours but the lacquer has decayed and we have to imagine the splendour of his freshly applied yellow or ochre garment. Since he was a footsoldier in the vanguard of the principal troop, his hand probably held a hilted sword.

Resolute rather than ferocious, he seems proud to have been chosen to make sure that his Emperor comes to no harm on his journey to the other world.

- Mysteries of Ancient China, *sponsored by* The Times, *continues at the British Museum to Jan 5. Admission £5: bookings on 0171-420 0000*

MONDAY: A jade suit fit for a prince

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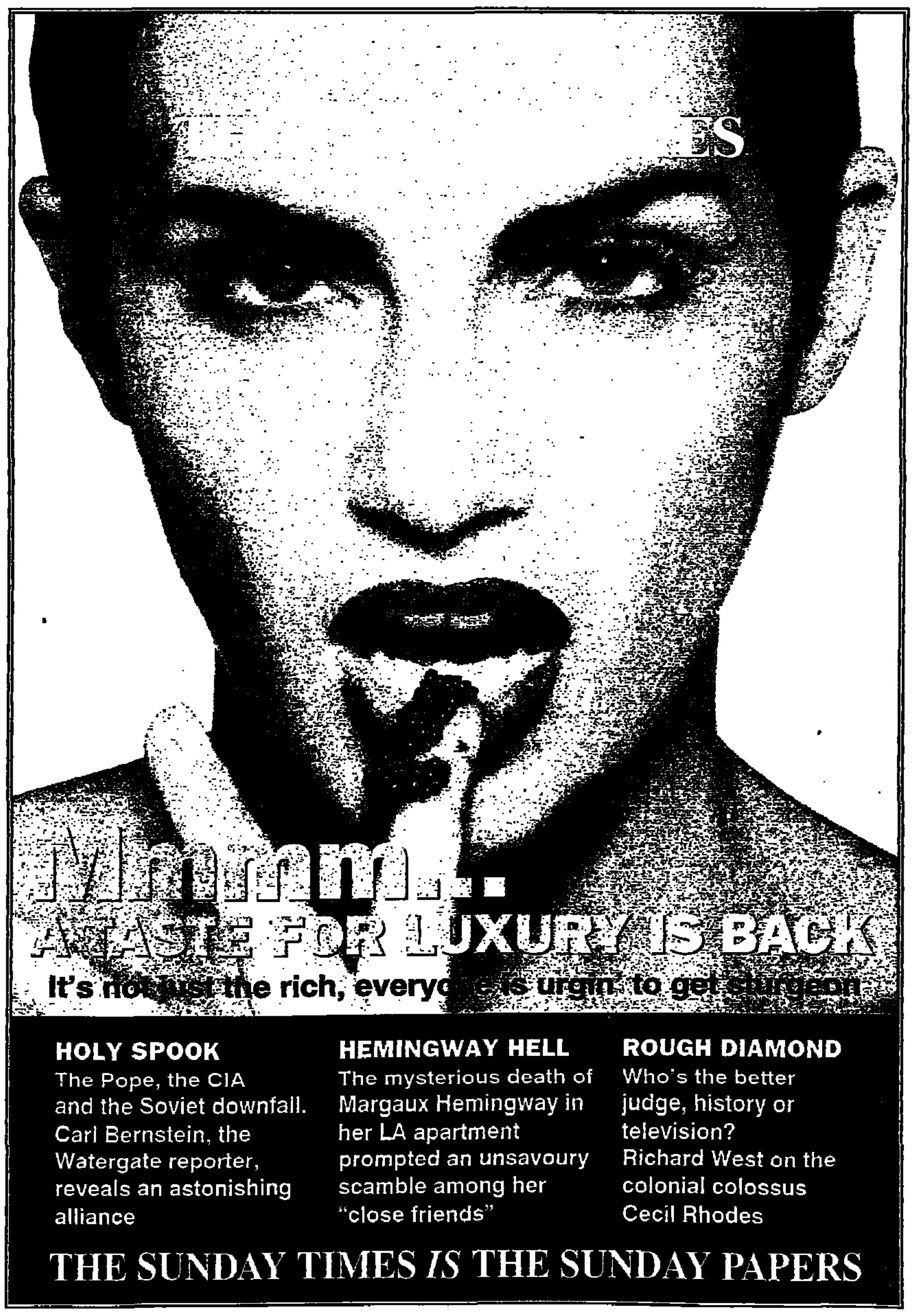

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HOLY SPOOK
The Pope, the CIA and the Soviet downfall. Carl Bernstein, the Watergate reporter, reveals an astonishing alliance

HEMINGWAY HELL
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ROUGH DIAMOND
Who's the better judge, history or television? Richard West on the colonial colossus Cecil Rhodes

THE SUNDAY TIMES *IS* THE SUNDAY PAPERS

Gaitskell, Blair and the party

Brian Brivati recalls Labour's lost leader and his modernising legacy

On Sunday, October 11, 1959, *Reynolds News* carried an article by Ivan Yates calling for the Labour Party to break its links with the trade unions. The then leader of the party, Hugh Gaitskell, dismissed the talk as nonsense: the link with the unions, which were then mostly on the Right of the party and had helped to make him leader, was safe.

If yesterday's reports are correct and Tony Blair is planning to take the next logical step in his modernising of Labour, then he is also contemplating a leap in the dark. If the historic Labour Party ended when Clause Four was replaced, then a new political entity would be born if the unions and the party cut their links. Hitherto, Mr Blair's political adventure has not been without precedent. He is following in the footsteps of a public school and Oxford-educated economist who entered the Commons more than 50 years ago and died in 1963: Hugh Gaitskell.

Unlike Mr Blair, Gaitskell was happy to call himself a democratic socialist. He did not see himself as a social democrat, believing that the State should use planning, demand management, progressive taxation and public ownership to promote greater equality. He also believed that the British were unique and the Cold War worth fighting. His patriotism led him to oppose both unilateral nuclear disarmament and the terms negotiated by Harold Macmillan for British membership of the EEC.

Gaitskell: patriot

Gaitskell believed that winning power mattered. He wanted Labour to be electable and his revisionism — the 1950s equivalent of today's modernisation — was designed to enhance Labour's electoral chances. He believed Labour was better equipped to run the mixed economy which the wartime coalition and the Attlee Government had created, and he had little faith in markets. Democratic socialism was setting the political agenda and the Conservatives were the ones on the defensive. Labour, although riddled with internal conflicts that make Mr Blair's disciplinary problems look like a tea dance, had a common underlying ideology.

Gaitskell was wedded to the Labour Party by deep intellectual and emotional ties, which is why his response to the loss of the 1959 election was to propose the replacement of Clause Four, the statement of the party's aims and values. He wanted to supplant the promise to extend public ownership with a coherent and extensive commitment to equality and personal freedom — and he failed. But his position was clear: if you modernise, you need to bring the basic ideology of the party with you. Labour must grow but it must also remain connected with its core beliefs. There are significant questions here for new Labour. Where is the ideological framework against which the initial decisions of Blair's ministers can be tested and from which they can derive the necessary strength to override Whitehall's agenda and begin to set their own?

Gaitskell believed that Britain mattered. His patriotism had two foundations: the Commonwealth, which involved Britain in a global role of political leadership, and the special relationship with the United States, which meant that Britain had to play its full part in the Cold War. He was then the only major figure in the Labour Party to denounce the Communist governments as comparable in their barbarity to Nazi Germany. For this, and for his opposition to unilateralism, he has suffered the lasting hatred of many on the Left.

His character combined romanticism, expressed in his views of Britain's global role, and ruthlessness, shown most clearly when he united the party behind his opposition to the EEC, isolating his friends. His unashamed evocation of Britain's past, in his last great speech to a Labour Party conference, is a reminder that the Tories do not have a monopoly of patriotism. Gaitskell's brand of national self-confidence, which should not be confused with the crude xenophobia of today's Euro-sceptics, is something new Labour should take note of.

Gaitskell believed that socialism was spreading opportunity and wealth more fairly and ensuring that people enjoyed basic material standards and opportunities which gave meaning to freedom. His egalitarianism extended to race: while he was leader, Labour opposed immigration controls. It also embraced the "permissive society". His basic beliefs centred on reason rather than religion. He had little time for Christian socialism or social conservatism — in marked contrast to Mr Blair.

He was an old-fashioned Englishman, his emotional, passionate and humorous personality trapped behind the public face of the uptight Wykehamist. His usual speaking style was dry, didactic and donnish. Being summoned to the leader's room was likened to going to see the headmaster. Occasionally, though, the private man broke the public image.

Each time the mask of the English public schoolboy slipped, Gaitskell scored an immense triumph. In 1947 he broke down at a miners' gala and shed tears of gratitude for the NUM — endearing him forever to the miners' leader Sam Watson. In 1960 he turned on his tormentors at the Scarborough conference and scattered them with one of the most emotionally charged speeches of the postwar era. In 1962, all the conflicts and contradictions of his upper-middle-class family of Imperial civil servants flooded out as he rejected the EEC at Brighton. The passion he showed on these occasions was dismissed by his enemies as demagogy, but his friends saw the courage and honesty.

These public glimpses highlight the tensions of his private life. Circumscribed politically by the conservatism of his party, he relaxed and indulged his passions in private. He loved dancing, good food and wine, and while men often found him reserved, women did not. In the most gruelling years of his political career, he found escape with Ann Fleming, wife of the James Bond creator Ian, and a high-society world far removed from the party which he loved. It was a sign of the personal cost of his path to power.

Gaitskell's career came to a head at Brighton in 1962. He united the party with controlled passion. One hundred and eight days later he was dead: struck down by a rare and poorly understood disease. His legacy, which the Labour Party has now embraced, was the importance of the pursuit of power. His contemporary relevance lies in the limits he set to the compromises which democratic socialists should make to win power, and the clear set of beliefs, centred on equality, that should inform the actions of a Labour government. The question his life poses to the modern Labour Party is stark: how many principles is power worth?

Dr Brivati's biography of Gaitskell will be published on Monday by Richard Cohen Books.

Is public speaking a declining art? **Peter Riddell** compares the eloquence of past and present

The old orators are still the best

Anyone going to this autumn's party conferences expecting great oratory is likely to be disappointed. Partisan bombast and laboured soundbites there will be aplenty, but little which lingers in the memory to inspire, persuade or excite. It is the same in Parliament. Few MPs can now produce a rush by other Members into the chamber, or by journalists into the Press Gallery.

That can be viewed just as middle-aged nostalgia. As my colleague Brian MacArthur argues in *The Penguin Book of Twentieth-Century Speeches*, "Oratory is always a declining art. Every generation judges contemporary speakers unfavourably against the giants of the past." In 1914, there were complaints that oratory had given way to talk and the same was said after the arrival of radio, the cinema and television. The style of oratory has been changed by this communications revolution. Nearly a third of the electorate went to public meetings in the early 1950s: fewer than 3 per cent do now. The length of speeches has shortened from the regular two or three hours of Gladstone to the 75 minutes or less of recent compressed Budgets.

Oratory is not dead: political leaders still need to rouse their followers if they are to succeed. My doubt is whether standards have declined — as is suggested by a new collection of archive recordings, *Great Political Speeches*. This complements a *Great Parliamentary Speeches*, produced last year and also compiled by Peter Hill, a veteran BBC correspondent. The two hours reverberate with the sounds of British politics, starting with a still powerful but high-pitched Gladstone in 1889. The giants are all there — Asquith, Lloyd George, Baldwin, Ramsay MacDonald, Churchill, Bevan, Macmillan and Gaitskell. I would quibble at the omission of Balfour, F.E. Smith and Mosley and at the inclusion of some run-of-the-mill modern contributions (for example, a shrill Lady Olga Maitland).

The older generation were more inspiring and moving. They talked in paragraphs, not phrases, showing a feel for language and a sense of history. Nonconformity was as important as Balliol. Lloyd George acknowledged that his speeches were "founded on the oratory of the pulpits". But a change occurs from the 1960s, when television came of age. Presentation is now often staccato. Wisecracks have replaced wit. "The lady's not for turning" was invented to fill a headline space. Politicians know long speeches will not be reported, so they do not bother.

Of recent British politicians, Baroness Thatcher was never "a natural orator", as is conceded by Sir Ronald Millar, who has added tone to the speeches of Tory leaders for two decades. In his memoir *A View from the Wings*, he adds that "growing skill in timing and sheer authority of manner made her a speaker who could command a huge audience seemingly without effort". The same force of will rather than style has been shown by Tony Blair, while John Major has relied more on innate decency and a conversational manner.

Peggy Noonan, author of Ronald Reagan's most memorable phrases, argues in *What I Saw at the Revolution* that people "no longer learn the rhythms of public utterance from Shakespeare and the Bible. The modern egalitarian impulse has made politicians leery of flaunting high rhetoric."

There has been a debasement of the political culture. The semi-detached Roy Jenkins and Chris Patten are rarities in attempting historical or literary allusions. But the fault lies also with people such as Noonan herself. The rise of the speechwriter has contributed to the decline in oratory. Speeches are often hybrids, in part because of the time-pressures on leading politicians. The results lack a coherent or uplifting theme. Only a skilled actor such as Reagan can convincingly deliver someone else's lines. In the past, politicians wrote most or all their speeches. A few such as Gladstone managed with minimal preparation, although Churchill spent long hours rehearsing and Lloyd George confessed he often made "many false starts".

The best orators today are veterans such as Tony Benn or Michael Heseltine, and those who learnt debating young. Malcolm Rifkind and Robin Cook have been exchanging barbs since their days at Edinburgh University 30 years ago, and their speeches are very much their own work. Perhaps the clearest pointer that oratory will be kept alive well into the next century comes from the inclusion in *Great Political Speeches* of William Hague's precocious debut at a Tory conference in 1977 as a 16-year-old Young Conservative, sounding like a 60-year-old knight of the shires.

Great Political Speeches *(Hodder Headline/BBC, £9.99 cassette or £14.99 CD).*

Emma the inimitable

The latest Austen adaptation is a far cry from the book — but there is room for both

Gwyneth Paltrow as Emma, the heroine of Austen's maturity: "faultless in spite of her faults"

Simon Jenkins

After *Middlemarch* comes *Emma*. After the epic novel of the head comes the epic novel of the heart, tossed to the ravenous wolves of film and out this week. *Middlemarch* survived serialisation with only flesh wounds. Previous Jane Austen adaptations were slighter works that could withstand mauling. But what is *Emma*'s fate, torn from home and hearth and carried across the sea to Hollywood?

I confess that, man and boy, I have been in love with Emma. I stood with Mr Knightley by her father's Hartfield fireside watching her scheme with the emotions of her friends. As each scheme dissolved in her hands, I scolded, but felt for her anger. Other people's love seemed so wayward. Emma might be bored, selfish, malicious, a snob, but she was never quite a fool. She took each defeat hard but returned philanthropic to the fray, to set her microcosm of the world on the path to happiness, shipshape and Emma-fashion.

She grew up. When she was at last confronted with the chaotic denouement of Harriet's infatuation with Knightley, "it darted through her with the speed of an arrow that Mr Knightley must marry no one but herself". A hurricane tore up the gently nodding trees of Highbury. Knightley was after all the purger of her sins and tutor of her maturity. He found her "faultless in spite of her faults". He adored her.

Jane Austen has always defied illustration. Dickens has his Phiz and Lewis Carroll his Tenniel. I have no picture in my mind's eye of any Austen character. Her books carry only portraits of herself. The nearest we have to a description of Emma is "handsome". The young men of Highbury are not beating a path to her door. Austen did not want Emma pretty. She was writing a geography of the emotions, a route map through the turbulence within. To give her characters flesh and blood would put this map at risk. To put them onto film would dazzle the reader with surface light and lose the shadows.

The central tension in *Emma* is between the heroine, sublimating her marital hopes in those of her friends, and Knightley's horror at her meddling. These two individuals are 18 years apart, divided not just by age but by a generation of wisdom and moral behaviour. She is wealthy, pert, witty and immature. He is sensible rather than intellectual, constant rather than doting, not rich but "with land". *Emma* is often described as a marriage of converging minds. It is more one of converging maturities.

The film version is gorgeous and enjoyable. Gwyneth Paltrow's Emma is doe-eyed and full of artless menace. Her astonishing neck — Paltrows must have giraffes as ancestors — would have had all Highbury gasping. Her complexion is more Malibu than Surrey. For an American, her mastery of English accent and inflexion is extraordinary. In the other roles, the producers wisely turned to the English stage and won Sophie Thompson as Miss Bates and Juliet Stevenson as Mrs Elton. Both deserve cameo Oscars. The men are less right — Mr Elton too plain, Mr Churchill too old — but no matter. Austen's men are mere swallows, swooping low over the hearts of girls and teasing them back to their nests.

As Knightley, Jeremy Northam is a dashing Prince Charming from the start. When he and Emma first gaze at each other in the firelight, electricity and wedding bells are already in the air. Despite his cold reprimand of Emma for her rudeness to Miss Bates on Box Hill, these are always two lovers circling each other, waiting to clinch. When Knightley at last kisses her, it is a kiss of passion, not of atonement or forgiveness. *Emma* is Hollywood's answer to *Four Weddings and a Funeral*: four weddings and a stately home. It offers a younger Jane Austen, of sense redeeming sensibility, of the Age of Reason marking out the boundaries for the Age of Romance. *Emma* the book is a different story with a darker theme. It is that of age auditing youth. Forgiveness, and eventually love, comes only after a fearful scolding. Knightley begins as Emma's uncle — "the only one who tells me my faults" — becomes her mentor and only ends as her husband. Even then she cannot bring herself to call him by his first name. This is the tale of the "older man". It was the work of Austen's own maturity, completed in 1816 shortly before her fatal illness. She made Knightley the same age as herself — I cannot believe by accident. This Knightley appears nowhere in the film.

But so what? The role of the nit-picker in these period adaptions should be limited. Those such as *Middlemarch* and *Pride and Prejudice* were long enough to attempt some truth to the original. Where they diverged was irritating, to those who respect the original even maddening. There is nothing in George Eliot's novel to suggest that it was Casaubon who was sexually frigid — only the BBC's yearning for a bed scene. In *Pride and Prejudice*, the character of Mrs Bennet so embodies the title that we must feel some sympathy for her predicament. By making her a clown, the BBC tore the heart from the drama and replaced it with Punch and Judy.

A feature film is different. It has just 90 minutes to strut the stage. Adaptation of a novel can only be "free". I preferred *Sense and Sensibility*, a film, to *Pride and Prejudice* on television, largely because it made little pretence to dramatise a book. It was a film, a glorious swirl of girls pining and men trifling. Buildings and landscape were used as Austen never used them, but to brilliant effect. Austen's contrast of sense (Elinor) and sensibility (Marianne) was easy to deconstruct and recreate in celluloid.

The film of *Emma* is a version of the novel in the same sense as the recent Hollywood comedy *Clueless*, which set *Emma* in modern dress. But what it lost in subtlety it gained in sumptuousness. *Emma* is a beautifully acted and photographed love story. I am sure Jane Austen would have winced at the casting, but she would have happily settled in her parlour at Chawton to count the royalties.

Nothing vindicates these revivals so much as the path they beat back to their originals. The critics sneer that modern youth has to take its literature in visual form. This is simply untrue. By next month *Emma* will be the most read novel in England. I find this exhilarating.

Jane Austen's creed was timeless. She held that the actions which matter most in life are those that govern personal relationships. Such actions may be conditioned by place, birth and money — as they still are — but this is mere backdrop.

In the beginning was the heart and it remains to the end. In *Northanger Abbey*, she wrote that a novelist must convey "the most thorough knowledge of human nature and the happiest delineation of its varieties". She achieved this within the confines of four families locked in an English village. Genius needs no wider canvas.

The cinema's rediscovery of Austen testifies to the power of her creed. We should shout it from the aisles and across the popcorn. Hiding behind the frocks and the frolics, the tantrums and the tears is a good book waiting to be read. It is worth a thousand movies.

THE TIMES DIARY

Up in arms

GROWING fears of an attempt on the life of Imran Khan in Pakistan have forced him to take drastic measures. He has decided to carry a gun at all times in his native land. His return to Pakistan yesterday cast the only shadow over Thursday night's charity premiere of *Emma*, organised in aid of his cancer hospital in Lahore by his wife Jemima six weeks before she is due to give birth.

Friends at the premiere were concerned that he has become a prime target for assassination after the launch of his own political party this year and his pledge to clean up corruption in his homeland. After his Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital in Lahore was bombed in April, killing six people and injuring 34, he said he wouldn't carry a gun or bring in police protection. Now he has changed his mind.

At a party before the screening of *Emma*, he said that he could not afford bodyguards and that he would not countenance asking his billionaire father-in-law Sir James Goldsmith for help. "I think he agrees with me that it is not worth worrying about things you can do nothing about," he said. "Bombers are so sophisticated these days, if they want to get you they can. But I carry a gun now in Pakistan."

Assassination fears: Imran, armed for the struggle, and Jemima

Hello again

THERE is no let-up in the row between the Marquesa de Valera, erstwhile social fixer of the gushing glossy *Hello!*, and its sharp-suited Editor Maggie Koumi.

The Marquesa, who is leaving the magazine, has received a letter from the lawyer Peter Carter-Ruck, acting on Ms Koumi's behalf. Amid growing rumours that the Marquesa plans to start up her own magazine in competition to *Hello!*, the letter can only add grist to this vulgar battle. Yesterday, however, there was no comment from the Marquesa.

● *The ear of the Heritage Secretary is worth £400. A letter sent to business and council leaders inviting them to a breakfast with Virginia Bottomley at a Bournemouth hotel during the Conservative Party conference advises: "For £500, you would be able to discuss issues of concern to you informally over breakfast with Virginia Bottomley and members of the National Heritage team . . ." The alternative option — breakfast without chatting to Nanny — costs £100.*

Stateside Sue

AFTER losing her job a fortnight ago as Editor of the *Sunday Express*, the leggy Sue Douglas is bring tipped for a senior editorial post across the Atlantic. She is going to the Big Apple to see Mort Zuckerman, the property developer turned newspaper baron, who owns the *New York Daily News*.

"I'm going over there to see some people," she said yesterday. But she refused to be drawn on suggestions that she might replace the *News*'s current Editor Martin Dunn, an Englishman.

Lasta sitting

DINERS' knives are out in the West End. Valoti's, the famous but basic Italian restaurant that has served as a canteen for the stars for nearly 50 years, is to close because the property's owners have received planning permission for a redevelopment.

The unassuming joint on Shaftesbury Avenue will fold its final napkin in November. Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay are among regulars organising a petition to Camden council, which granted planning permission.

"We are very unpretentious," says Rick Valoti, whose parents started doling out cheap lasagne in 1948. "But everyone seems to have been in over the years. Audrey Hepburn when she was a chorus girl — and John Gielgud used to come in with Ralph Richardson. I feel gutted."

Teeny Tory

WILLIAM HAGUE'S record as the youngest delegate to speak at a Conservative Party conference may soon be overturned. The Welsh Secretary was 16 when he impressed Margaret Thatcher with his speech. Last year his effort was nearly beaten by 14-year-old Justin Hinchcliffe, but he was barred at the last minute because of his frighteningly right-wing views.

Now a St Trinian's-type schoolgirl of extraordinary precocity, 14-year-old Jemma Nichols, has pitched a bid for Bournemouth this year.

Classroom politics: Jemma

Backed by Tewkesbury Young Conservatives, where she is social secretary, she has canvassed for the party since she was four.

Her steely determination has been rocked by reports of the split in Oasis, her pop favourites, but a burning ardour for the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, should see her through the calamity.

"I have read in church many times and taken part in amateur dramatics, so I should manage this one," she squeaks.

P·H·S

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LET'S GO FLY A KITE

Labour is in danger of spinning out of control

There is a technique of political presentation, as commonly used as it is cynical, known as "kite-flying". It involves leaking a policy proposal, assessing the public response and then, if necessary, either denying that the policy was ever under consideration or moderating it to suit the reaction. The Labour Party has become particularly enamoured of this method, and it is endangering the very reputation for straight-dealing which Tony Blair has won for himself.

Mr Blair's backroom spin doctors have long been in danger of disappearing up their own vortex. Now his front benchers are joining in. Stephen Byers, Labour's Employment Shadow, had dinner on Wednesday with four journalists, among them our chief political correspondent, Jill Sherman. Each of them reported yesterday that Labour was considering balloting its members on cutting the party's links with the trade unions if the unions provoked a "summer of discontent" under a new Labour government. But by yesterday morning, the story was being hotly denied by Mr Byers, who said the reports were "prime candidates for the Booker Prize for Fiction".

This newspaper is in the business of fact, not fiction. Our reporters do not make up stories; they use their experience and expertise to extract the truth from what can often be a complicated web of deceit or distortion designed to portray the informant in a good light. In this case, we stand by our story and leave readers to judge whether they believe Mr Byers's version or ours.

For he has a special interest in behaving as he did. All week, Labour spokesmen have been addressing two audiences: one inside and the other outside the Blackpool Winter Gardens. To the wider world, they have been polishing their modern, even right-wing, credentials. Back in the TUC conference, they have been toning down their statements, trying to reassure the old guard that the "wilder" press accounts are not to be believed.

To an extent these tactics have succeeded. Labour has given notice this week that, in government, it would deal with the TUC little more favourably than any other interest group, such as the CBI. Mr Blair no longer treats his party as the political arm of the trade union movement. He knows that if he governed in a sectional rather than national interest, he would be thrown out of office at the earliest opportunity. This week his spokesmen were trying to prepare the unions for a 1990s Labour government which, if Mr Blair and his colleagues held their nerve, would be quite different from what the unions enjoyed in the 1970s.

This goes down well with the voters. But it angers many trade unionists. With each general election defeat and subsequent period of Conservative office, there is more back pay to be reclaimed, there are more laws to be repealed. If Labour were to win, some of them still think it would be a Second Coming. This is the illusion that Mr Blair needs to dispel. There is sense in him bringing trades unionists back to earth before an election rather than after.

His message has dangers too, though. There are voters on the old Left who may become so disillusioned that they will simply not bother to vote come polling day. Too much realism now may put them off. This is the price Mr Blair pays for honesty. But there is a price to pay for dishonesty too. The more that Labour muddles its message and plays to two different audiences, the less trustworthy it appears. Mr Blair, unlike many of his predecessors, seems frank and honest. He should do all in his power to protect that reputation. Once lost, it is near impossible to regain.

LIFE IN VENICE

A fight against winds, waves, pollution and neglect

Of the multiple perils that Venice has faced in its long history, fatalism about this most precarious as well as most beautiful of cities has been the greatest. The assumption that Venice was irreparably headed into physical decay and pauperisation has been current at least since Byron lamented its "fall" in 1818; by the mid-19th century, Dickens took for granted his pleasure in Venice as a "ghostly city". Thirty years ago, when Venice suffered the most catastrophic floods in its history, the obituaries appeared only mildly premature. The city was literally sinking into the lagoon in which, by miracles of early engineering skills, it had been set.

Venice is sinking no more, thanks to an international rescue effort which has stabilised the water table and restored much of its physical fabric to better condition than it has been in since the Republic fell to Napoleon in 1797. Considerable credit for converting the shock of the 1966 disaster into a lasting programme of practical restoration work lies with a Venetian resident and former British Ambassador to Italy, the late Sir Ashley Clarke. On Monday Venice in Peril, the charity he founded, will mark its 25th anniversary with an exhibition at the Italian Trade Centre in Piccadilly. It is well-designed, informative and modest — as is the organisation whose work it celebrates.

Its comprehensive restoration of the Madonna dell'Orto, Tintoretto's lovely Gothic parish church, was the first large-scale project undertaken in Venice after the 1966 flood and has been the model for other restorers. Among its 19 projects are such familiar tourist landmarks as the principal entrance to the Doge's Palace. But Venice in Peril's influence has been based not just on the painstaking, necessarily piecemeal work of cleaning stones, statues and paintings. In a city whose prewar population of 170,000 has shrunk to 70,000, it has had the vitality of Venetian neighbourhoods constantly in mind. In the debate on how best the conservation of Venice's artistic inheritance can be combined with ways to revive the city's faltering economic pulse, it has played a role far beyond its financial contribution.

Tourism, Venice's economic mainstay, is also its bane; at high season, the place almost chokes with day-trippers who add little to its income while straining an urban fabric exceptionally unsuited to mass traffic. The energy that is going into rebuilding La Fenice, its exquisite opera house gutted by fire last January, reflects not just emotion but the vital importance of sustaining Venice's reputation as a cultural centre.

Beyond that, there are no easy answers — Venice is fortunate to have escaped one grand solution dreamt up a century ago, which proposed wholesale clearances and redevelopment, including the creation of wide boulevards so that motor cars could bring to Venice the prosperity of modern life. Yet the information age would seem to be made for a city that owes so much of its historical prosperity to the "service industries" of its banks and entrepot trade. Politically, it is now better managed than in the years when the Christian Democrats and Socialists carved up the spoils of local government; the new urban plan places proper emphasis on affordable housing for white-collar workers. Twenty-five years ago, the question was whether Venice could physically be saved; the fact that today's debate is about how to make it prosper is a tribute to a remarkable, even if far from complete, rescue operation.

BEAM ME UP, SCOTTY

Will people wear their brains on their sleeves?

Those who feel that they cannot keep up with their neighbours in Mensa or worry that their brain cells have lost a volt or two can now put their names down for a transplant that boffins promise will soon be on the way. Within a few years, visionaries told the British Association for the Advancement of Science this week, surgeons will be able to implant a tiny microchip at the back of the human brain. This will do everything from restoring people's sight to allowing troops in a war zone to communicate with base by beaming up the military map to the squaddies' brain chips and bringing them home on autopilot.

The possibilities are endless. Chips could be designed to make your chess game unbeatable, or transmit the secrets of French cuisine through your visual cortex so that a gourmet feast flashes upon the inward eye whenever you are stuck for what to give the guests for dinner. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology is already working on the development of special shoes to store static electricity from the carpet to power the chips; other researchers must surely be investigating how the phrase "photographic memory" can make even the most fiendish examinations mere child's play.

Even before the scalpels are out to create bionic man, the slip-on version will soon be in all the shops. The portable computer is now available, cunningly disguised as a watch or musical T-shirt. With most of Britain already covered by mobile phone [illegible] children will soon be demanding their own numbers as soon as they can talk, and a lifelong hook-up to cyberspace will be included in recommended books on parenting. Already, smart computers can recognise voices, and at the wink of a familiar eye can open the garage door or turn on the oven. Indeed, if research into the harnessing of electrical brainwaves to power chairs for the handicapped can be extended, it will not be long before you need only look with a concentrated air at your wrist-computer to have your household chores accomplished in a trice.

There are drawbacks to this brave new world. No computer is infallible or proof against human boisterousness. What if a grain of sand, trapped in the works during a frolic on the beach, dispatched that incomplete letter of resignation to your boss? Or will a rather too vigorous embrace in the back row of the cinema burnt the dinner and had the bath overflowing?

Not everyone, of course, will want to programme their lives with off-the-peg software. A few rebels — an artist, perhaps, or an aspiring poet — may pluck the cell from their brains, or at least smash the brain on their wrists and trust, foolishly, to human intuition. Others may favour the pre-cyber look, and keep a computerised gold timepiece on a waistcoat chain, which flashes its commands with a purringly old-fashioned tic. Hardware shops will mean something very different to future generations; and youngsters will look back on Star Trek and giggle at its naivety.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Doing business with new Labour?

From Viscount Caldecote, FEng

Sir, There is much good sense in the article by Lord Hanson ("Why I can't do business with Blair", September 10; letters, September 12), the subheading of which says that "the boardroom has much to fear from new Labour". But if those fears are to be liars there is much that we Conservatives have to do in promoting the Prime Minister's admirable objective of creating a nation at ease with itself.

Excesses in the boardroom need to be curbed. These include absurdly inflated pay with the addition of easy-to-achieve "incentive" schemes, excessive share option schemes with no downside risk, and vast "compensation" payments for those who fail in their job.

Complaints of such abuses are usually countered by claims that such decisions are ultimately the responsibility of the shareholders, when the board's remuneration committee falls down on its job. That is true, but how often do institutional shareholders (the effective owners of most large plcs) carry out these responsibilities? Clearly far too seldom; but when occasionally they do, they can be most effective.

The existing regime of "self-regulation" by shareholders is not working well enough, and there is a need for legislation. For instance, it should only be permissible for share options to be granted pro rata to shareholding; incentive schemes should apply to all employees, not just to a privileged few, as is already the case in profit-sharing schemes.

Loyalty and unity of purpose are priceless assets in any organisation. They are not encouraged by such excesses and perceived unfairness, which do no good to the Conservative cause either.

Yours faithfully,
CALDECOTE,
House of Lords.
September 12.

From the President of the Board of Trade

Sir, Lord Hanson is right to highlight the dangers to the economy of a Labour government. This Government has promoted sustained economic growth by working with the market rather than trying to regulate it.

Whilst some regulation is, of course, needed, the Government's attitude is always to question why, and to interfere in the market only when absolutely necessary. Competition policy is a good example; our emphasis on encouraging vigorous and fair competition recognises the contribution it can make to the competitiveness of British business and to securing value for money for customers.

Similarly, the Government's opt-out from the social chapter will free British business from the burdens imposed by the regime of regulation and compulsion on our EU competitors. Little wonder, therefore, that we continue to attract almost 40 per cent of Japanese and US investment into the EU; that we have more of our population of working age in employment than any other major EU country and that our unemployment rate is far below the EU average.

These benefits have come from policies designed to create an environment which encourages enterprise and competition. British business will not thank a government that puts those achievements in danger.

Yours sincerely,
IAN LANG,
Department of Trade and Industry,
Ashdown House,
Victoria Street, SW1.
September 12.

From Professor Emeritus Nicholas Kurti, FRS

Sir, Lord Hanson writes, "While posing as a friend of small businesses, Labour plans to impose on them the social chapter . . ."

May I quote from the Treaty on European Union (Maastricht, 1992), which contains the social chapter, that Article 2, paragraph 2 of the Agreement on Social Policy clearly states that " . . . directives shall avoid imposing administrative, financial and legal constraints in a way which would hold back the creation and development of small and medium-sized undertakings."

The publishers who reissued the treaty a few months after it first appeared seem to have chosen, tongue in cheek, an appropriate title — *The Unseen Treaty* — because it appeared so few had actually read it.

Yours faithfully,
N. KURTI,
University of Oxford,
Department of Physics,
Clarendon Laboratory,
Park Road, Oxford.
September 12.

From Mr L. Cooley

Sir, I feel sure that most of Lord Hanson's very disappointed shareholders will welcome Tony Blair as their next Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
L. COOLEY,
Fairmead, Surbiton, Surrey.
September 10.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

'Taller, bigger, glossier' buildings on London's skyline

From Professor Maxwell Hutchinson

Sir, Height alone is not the critical issue in the evaluation of a building. The question is whether or not it is truly good architecture.

The tower at Canary Wharf is a dull update of the heavyweight Manhattan construction of the 1930s. The Grade II listed Centre Point makes its mark through surface texture and form. The NatWest Tower is a worthy landmark, with its plan shape born out of the company's logo and its fractured skyline.

Sir Norman Foster's proposed Millennium Tower, to be erected in the City on the site of the bomb-damaged Baltic Exchange (report and photograph, September 10), seems imbued with the same architectural quality and originality as his justly famous Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank in Hong Kong.

It may not be ready for the millennium but it is by far a worthier monument than an ephemeral item of fairground machinery.

Kind regards,
MAXWELL HUTCHINSON
(President, Royal Institute of British Architects, 1989-91),
Connaut House,
80 Wimpole Street, W1.
September 11.

From Mr G. Roland Adamson

Sir, It shouldn't be too difficult for Mr Peter Rees, the City of London's planning officer, to recommend refusal of permission for Sir Norman Foster's "crowning glory [?] for London skyline", as your headline (September 10) puts it. All he has to do is rigorously apply the worthy principles of the Listed Buildings Act 1990 and the ministerial guidance set out in *Planning and the Historic Environment* (PPG 15, Sections 2.11-2.17).

Sir Norman's tower, and the proposed dreadful South Bank Ferris wheel (report, April 18; letters, April 24, May 27, June 4, 14, 19), must between them affect more than a few important listed buildings and national monuments — and should be refused on that ground alone.

Yours etc,
G. ROLAND ADAMSON
(Town planning and development consultant),
Ivy Cottage, Charing Hill,
Charing, Ashford, Kent.

From Mr Christopher K. Makin

Sir, If Sir Norman Foster's proposed tower is to be challenged on the ground of scale, what might have been the fate of Sir Christopher Wren's St Paul's Cathedral in a 17th-century context?

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER MAKIN,
25 Hampstead Lane, N7.

From Mr Andrew Tobin

Sir, Taller, bigger and glossier buildings may be appropriate for those rapidly developing cities of the Far East which are desperately trying to surpass their neighbours, or North America, where skyscrapers are a well established architectural genre. London, however, is an ancient and mature city with a well established sense of identity and should have no need to enter into this competition as if it represents an end in itself.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW TOBIN,
Flat D, 13 Queen Square, WC1.
September 10.

From Mr L. B. Kapp

Sir, The number of daytime occupants of the new building proposed for the Baltic Exchange site must run into thousands.

Surely the body which should be most closely involved in discussions is the transport planning department of the City of London, if there is such a thing. At the moment it does not seem as if there is.

Yours sincerely,
L. B. KAPP,
109 Drapers Copse,
Dibden, Southampton.
September 10.

From Mr Michael Saxby

Sir, Building glass gives the terrorist his shrapnel. I cannot understand how Sir Norman Foster can so disregard the lessons from the injuries and material damage caused by the explosion outside the Baltic Exchange.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SAXBY,
Southlands,
Stowmarket Road, Woolpit,
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
September 10.

From Mr Andrew Bradford

Sir, Now that whole ice shelves in Antarctica are disappearing as global warming takes hold, perhaps Sir Norman Foster should incorporate into his design provision in the ground floor for the docking of gondolas and water buses.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW BRADFORD,
Kincardine,
Kincardine O'Neil,
Aboyne, Aberdeenshire.
September 10.

Smacking and parental authority

From Mr Peter Newell

Sir, Your leading article of September 11, "This is going to hurt us", about the application concerning corporal punishment which has been declared admissible by the European Commission of Human Rights, implies that such matters are best left to "natural parental authority", and that those who support the boy's application are guilty of equating a thrashing with a smack.

Such arguments confuse rather than clarify the issue. This boy's application is not about smacking. It is about the failure of current English law to protect children from treatment which would amount to actual or grievous bodily harm if aimed at an adult. The repeated caning of the boy causing weals is not disputed.

As the Committee on the Rights of the Child concluded when it examined the UK's initial report on implementing the UN Convention last year, "the imprecise nature of the expression of reasonable chastisement . . . may pave the way for it to be interpreted in a subjective and arbitrary manner". A committee member told the British delegation that "no one would argue that a reasonable level of wife-beating should be permitted" and that "the UK position represented a vestige of the outdated view that children were in a sense their parents' chattels".

If the exception of "reasonable chastisement" were removed, so that children had the same protection under the law on assault as adults, there would be no question of trivial assaults of children getting to court, any more than trivial assaults between adults.

Yours faithfully,
PETER NEWELL (Co-ordinator),
Epoch (End Physical Punishment of Children),
77 Holloway Road, N7.
September 12.

Wild mushrooms

From Dr Anne-Carole Chamier

Sir, Fashionable restaurants serving dishes featuring wild mushrooms have promoted a vast industry in these fungi. In Britain the picking of wild mushrooms commercially is illegal. Professional mycologists like myself are extremely worried at the damage caused to natural ecosystems by this commercial exploitation.

In the New Forest, which has been subject to ruthless over-picking, a ban on *all* collectors has been set. But other areas of Britain are affected too — advertisements for wild mushrooms appear regularly in local newspapers.

Commercial picking is having a noticeable effect: places in Ross and Cromarty that were covered in chanterelles ten years ago are now barren, and other species such as ceps have been similarly devastated.

Fungi play a vital role in natural ecosystems, mainly as decomposers of dead matter which they recycle for the growth and development of new organisms. They are also essential living partners to many trees and plants. If mushrooms and toadstools are removed these fungi cannot reproduce themselves properly and the colonies soon die off. Perhaps those ordering or buying wild mushrooms could bear these points in mind.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
CAROLE CHAMIER,
Achandunie House, Ardross
By Alness, Ross and Cromarty.
September 13.

Speed cameras

From Mr F. Irish

Sir, You report ("News in brief", later editions, September 7) that a Home Office study has concluded that "Police speed cameras should be moved to less obvious positions because drivers are getting used to them". Surely the cameras should be placed where it is known that excessive speeds contribute to accidents, and the effectiveness should be measured by fewer accidents. For motorists to know their position surely helps this.

You also report that the cameras raised £6.7 million in fines. Does the Home Office consider that the primary objective of use of the cameras is to raise revenue?

Yours faithfully,
F. IRISH,
18 The Common, W5.

End of the road

From Mr Norman Goldner

Sir, Absolutely brilliant — choosing to illustrate the feature on road building in your "Century of the Car" supplement (September 9) with a picture of the construction in 1969 of the M1 slip-roads at Junction 2 in Hendon.

The closure of these very slip-roads at four hours' notice in July because they are likely to collapse (report, August 1) neatly symbolises the entire history of the British motor industry.

Yours faithfully,
NORMAN GOLDNER
21 Luther Close,
Edgware, Middlesex.
September 9.

'Father of Australia'

From Sir Albert McQuarrie

Sir, Under the heading "Australians want Macquarie cottage" you report (News in brief, September 9) that Australian politicians want to buy the last home of Major-General Lachlan Macquarie (1761-1824) situated in Mull, and have it re-erected in Sydney, New South Wales. The prospects of this happening are, in my view, negligible.

The interior of one room of this house was shipped to Mcquarrie University, Sydney, early in the 1980s and the present owners of the estate (who have been advised that I am writing to you) are not prepared to sell the house for taking down stone by stone.

Lachlan Macquarie's remains lie in Ulva, Mull, and the house is of considerable historic interest to Mcquarries world wide, in whatever form their name is spelt. We are all proud of our forebear, and if the house has sadly fallen into a state of disrepair urgent steps will be taken to rectify the matter. The Clan Mcquarrie Association in the United Kingdom is being reactivated, under my chairmanship, and will be making this a matter for priority action.

Our association supports the present owners' wish to secure funding in order to keep the house in Scotland and to create a lasting memorial to Lachlan Macquarie. Australians will be more than welcome to visit Mull and do homage to the memory of the "Father of Australia".

Yours sincerely,
ALBERT McQUARRIE,
Crimond, 11 Balcomie Crescent,
Troon, Ayrshire.

Lyceum Theatre

From the Director of the Theatres Trust

Sir, As freeholder of the Lyceum Theatre we greatly welcome the redevelopment now being carried out by Apollo Leisure (report, September 7). This will return one of London's finest theatres to its original use 58 years after it was purchased for demolition by the old London County Council. Your description of it as a "Regency theatre" may confuse, however.

The Regency-period Lyceum occupied a nearby site, but was burnt down in 1830. Only the giant portico now survives from its 1834 successor on the present site. This was the theatre built by Samuel Beazley and immortalised by Sir Henry Irving.

Today's Lyceum was built in 1904 to the designs of Bertie Crewe and was one of the most flamboyant of all the Edwardian variety houses. Indeed it was intended to rival the London Coliseum built in the same year and now occupied by English National Opera.

So when the Lyceum reopens this autumn its audiences will enter through an early Victorian portico, sit in an Edwardian auditorium, and watch performances on a stage that has been completely rebuilt and equipped to meet the standards of the 21st century. I am sure Sir Henry Irving would approve, but there's not much left that he would recognise.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LONGMAN,
Director,
The Theatres Trust,
22 Charing Cross Road, WC2.
September 9.

Daylight saving

From Mr Edward F. Northcote

Sir, We should consider that the French just might be right to stop messing about with their clocks (report and leading article, September 6).

"Daylight saving" was introduced when social conditions and business practice were very different from today. Then the daily routine of an office was dictated by the posts; now much of the mail comes in electronically through the day.

Then, if the City of London wanted to get up an hour earlier in summer, everybody else had to follow suit; now they would not. Firms which wanted to open their offices earlier in summer would be able to do so. Some might not, so the rush hours would be less intense.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD F. NORTHCOTE,
38 Westmore Court,
Carlton Drive, SW15.
September 6.

Take a raincheck?

From Mr John N. Porter

Sir, I was very interested to read (News in Brief, September 6) that a total eclipse of the Sun is "scheduled" for August 11, 1999.

Since the use of that word normally refers to a proposal for a future plan of action, can one assume that the eclipse will go ahead provided the weather is suitable on the day?

Or is there perhaps a hint that it may be a part of the programme of the Almighty for the millennium celebrations?

Yours etc,
JOHN N. PORTER,
Beechwood Avenue,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
September 9.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 13: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, The Royal Irish Regiment, this afternoon received Lieutenant Colonel Robert Andrew upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer 3rd Battalion and Lieutenant Colonel Michael Clements upon assuming the appointment.

September 13: The Prince Edward, Patron, the Scottish Badminton Union, this afternoon attended the Friends Provident Grand Slam Tournament at the Bell's Sports Centre, Perth, and was received by Mr John Mathieson (Deputy Lieutenant of Perth and Kinross).

ST JAMES'S PALACE
September 13: The Prince of Wales, Duke of Cornwall, this morning visited the Shaftesbury Housing Group development in Mere, and farms in the Eastern District.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Abbeyfield, this afternoon met residents at the Abbeyfield House, Dorchester, and was received by Major General Mark Bond (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset).

The Prince of Wales later visited the Joseph Weld Hospice, Dorchester.

YORK HOUSE
Setpember 13: The Duke of Kent, Patron, this afternoon visited the Stoke Mandeville Burns and Reconstructive Surgery Research Trust, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Berkshire (Commander the Lord Cottesloe).

Weekend royal engagements

TODAY:
The Duke of Kent, as Honorary Air Commodore, will attend the At *Home* day of *RAF Leuchars* at 11.00.

TOMORROW:
The Duke of Edinburgh, as patron, will open the refurbished headquarters of the Braemar Mountain Rescue Association, Glenshee Road, Braemar, Aberdeenshire, at 3.00.

The Prince of Wales will attend the annual Battle of Britain service of thanksgiving and rededication in Westminster Abbey at 11.00.

Old Millhillians Club

On Friday, September 27, 1996, the Club are pleased to be hosting the Midlands Dinner at The Northampton and County Club, George Road, Northampton. Principal guest speakers will be the Headmaster and the President of the Club. Old Millhillians wishing to attend should contact John Perkins, The Shippen, Cattle Hill, Great Billing, Northampton, 01604 233200, for more information.

Church news

The Rev John Loxton, Vicar, Turners Hill (Chichester): to retire September 30.

Service dinners

Royal Navy Medical Club
The Royal Navy Medical Club held a dinner last night at the Royal Naval College Greenwich. Surgeon Rear-Admiral A. Craig presided.

Among those present were: Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Air Marshal P.T. Squire, Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod, Dr A.W. Macara and Sir Rodney Sweetnam.

King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry
Brigadier R. St C. Preston presided at the annual dinner of the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry Regimental Officers' Club held last night at the Royal York Hotel, York.

XX The Lancashire Fusiliers
XX The Lancashire Fusiliers held their Minden Club dinner last night at the Army and Navy Club. Colonel I.R. Cartwright presided.

RAF Strike Command
A ladies guest night dinner was held last night at Headquarters Strike Command, RAF High Wycombe. Air Commodore M.D. Pledger, Air Officer Plans, and Mr J.P. Thatcher, Command Secretary, received the guests. Group Captain J.A. Cliffe presided.

Dinners

English-Speaking Union
Sir Ernest Hall was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner of the English-Speaking Union held last night at the Majestic Hotel, Harrogate, to mark the closing of the ESU World Members' Conference. Baroness Brigstocke, chairman of the union, presided. Mr John Salmon also spoke. Lady Brigstocke received the guests with Mr Alan Cox, deputy chairman, and Mrs Valerie Mitchell, director-general.

The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland
The Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Ireland held its Annual Dinner on Friday, September 13, at the Royal Bath Hotel, Bournemouth, after the Annual Scientific Meeting held jointly with the German Society of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine. Dr W.L.M. Baird, the President and Mrs Baird welcomed the guests who included:

Dr S Morrell Lyons, OBE, and Mrs Lyons, Professor and Mrs C Prys-Roberts, Professor Dr K van Ackern, Professor G Hempelmann, Dr and Mrs I White, Dr W Nimmo, Dr M Branthwaite, Mr M Powers, QC, Professor and Mrs M D Vickers, Professor and Mrs J Cooper, Professor and Mrs D A Rocke, Dr and Mrs M Dobson, Dr J Horton, Dr and Mrs J Zorab, Dr and Mrs W Wren and Sir Keith and Lady Sykes.

Weekend birthdays

Prince Henry of Wales will be 12 years old tomorrow.

TODAY
Miss Sandra Blow, painter, 71; Mr James Clappison, MP, 40; Lord Cledwyn of Penrhos, CH, 80; Professor J.F. Coales, electrical engineer, 89; Sir James Cobban, former Headmaster, Abingdon School, 86; Vice-Admiral Sir William Crawford, 89; Lord Dean of Harptree, 72; Mr Terence Donovan, photographer, 60; Mr Martyn Hill, tenor, 52; Mr Michael Howard, composer and conductor, 74; the Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, 68; Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowrey, 74; Mr Ray Wilkins, footballer, 40; Mr Nicol Williamson, actor, 58; Lord Willoughby de Broke, 58; Mr Martin Wyld, chief restorer, National Gallery, 52.

TOMORROW
The Rev Professor P.R. Ackroyd, theologian, 79; Mr Richard Arnell, composer and conductor, 79; Mr Charles Bone, mural and watercolour painter, 70; the Marquess of Bristol, 42; General Eva Burrows, former international leader, Salvation Army, 67; Dame Sylvia Crowe, landscape architect, 95; Mr T.J. Duggin, diplomat, 49; Lord Eden of Winton, 71; Professor Brian Fender, chief executive, Higher Education Funding Council for England, 62; Dr Richard Gordon, author, 75; Lord Harris of Peckham, 54; Lord Kinnaird, 84; Professor Norman MacKay, president, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, 60; Miss Jessye Norman, soprano, 51; Viscount Norwich, 67; Mr Glen Renfrew, former chief executive, Reuters, 68; Sir Clive Rose, diplomat, 75; Lord Justice Schiemann, 59; Lady Soames, 74; Mr Oliver Stone, film director, 50; Sir Peter Studd, former Lord Mayor of London, 80; Mr Graham Taylor, football manager, 52; Mr George Walden, MP, 57; Sir Richard Way, former Principal, King's College, London, 82; Sir John Williams, former diplomat, 74.

Marriages

**Mr A.D. Balfour
and Miss C.M.A. Garfit**
The marriage took place on September 7, at St Andrew's Church, Kelso, between Mr Andrew Balfour, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Balfour, and Miss Katie Garfit, daughter of Major and Mrs Christopher Garfit. The Rev David Edwardson officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Eleanor and Henrietta Lee, Lucila Hickie, Frederica Dixon, Johanna, Alice, Harriet and George Garrad, Archie Balfour and Henry Skinner. Mr Fabrice Le Roux was best man.

A reception was held at Newton Don and the honeymoon is being spent in Burgundy.

**Mr D.R. Graham
and Miss A.C. Bass**
The marriage took place on Saturday, August 31, 1996, at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley, between Mr Donald Graham, third son of Mr and Mrs Leslie Graham, of Edinburgh, and Miss Toni Bass, only daughter of Mr and Mrs William Bass, of Barnet, Hertfordshire. The Rev John Jenkins officiated.

**Mr R.W. Miall
and Dr A.J. Davies**
The marriage took place on September 13, 1996, in Guildford, of Roger Miall, son of Leonard Miall and the late Lorna Miall, and Anne Davies, only daughter of David and Mary Davies.

**Mr M.W.E. Yates
and Miss J.E. Roberts**
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 7, at St Giles, Great Longstone, Derbyshire, of Mr Mark Yates, son of Canon and Mrs Timothy Yates, of Great Longstone, to Miss Jill Roberts, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Roberts, of Wendling, Norfolk. The bridegroom's father officiated, assisted by Canon John Briggs.

The bride was attended by Claire Trivett and Mr Christopher Tovey was best man.

Westonbirt School

Autumn Term began on September 9. Camilla Wilson is Head of School and Jessica White, Louise Barnwell, Kate Mahoney, Marina Souter, Sarah Price and Laura Cooper are members of Study I. Speech Day is on September 28 with Sir Christopher Bland, Chairman of the BBC. The Fine Arts Brass Ensemble will perform at the School on October 18. The School will hold an Open Morning from 10am on October 19 for prospective parents. Term will end with the Carol Service on December 14.

ROBIN MAYES

Sleeping beside the golden hinde itself: Christian Bay, a crew member

Golden Hinde finds her final berth

By Alan Hamilton

LONDON has yet another new old ship. A replica of Sir Francis Drake's *Golden Hinde*, in which the roguish hero circumnavigated the world between 1577 and 1580, has taken up a permanent retirement berth on the Thames after a colourful late 20th-century career of her own.

From today the reconstructed galleon, 300 tons of stout English oak built at Appledore, Devon, in 1973, opens as a floating museum of the Elizabethan maritime experience, hidden in a dock down the back alleys of Southwark and competing in the increasingly crowded virtual history market with Shakespeare's Globe near by.

The replica was commissioned by an American consortium who wished to exhibit her on the San Francisco waterfront in commemoration of Drake's claiming of California for the English Crown. Since then she has covered 140,000 miles under sail, probably more than the original, circumnavigating the globe once and plying regularly across both Atlantic and Pacific.

The Americans eventually tired of her, mooring her in a boatyard at Troon, Ayrshire, to be cared for and maintained. Roddy Coleman, 50, the yard owner, eventually bought her, sailed her some more, and has now found her permanent moorings at St Mary Overie Dock, across the river from that newer and infinitely larger superannuated warship, *HMS Belfast*.

Mr Coleman plans to employ a costumed crew, and to invite parties of schoolchildren to learn Elizabethan seamanship. He may have to brush up a little on historical detail; at the opening party yesterday the actress dressed as Drake's patron, Elizabeth I, was wearing a wedding ring.

Anniversaries

TODAY
BIRTHS: Luigi Cherubini, composer, Florence, 1760; Baron Alexander von Humboldt, explorer and scientist, Berlin, 1769; Sir Peter Scott, naturalist and artist, London, 1909; Jack Hawkins, actor, London, 1910.

DEATHS: Dante Alighieri, poet, Ravenna, 1321; James Fenimore Cooper, novelist, Cooperstown, New York, 1851; Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington, Prime Minister 1828-30, Walmer Castle, Kent, 1852; Augustus Pugin, architect of the Gothic revival, Ramsgate, 1852; Isadora Duncan, dancer, Nice, 1927; Geoffrey Fisher, Baron Fisher of Lambeth, Archbishop of Canterbury 1945-61, Sherborne, Dorset, 1972; Grace Kelly, Princess Grace of Monaco, killed in a car crash, Monte Carlo, 1982.

TOMORROW
BIRTHS: Titus Oates, Protestant plotter, Oakham, 1649; James Fenimore Cooper, novelist, Burlington, New Jersey, 1789; Dame Agatha Christie, crime novelist, Torquay, 1891; Jean Renoir, film director, Paris, 1894.

DEATHS: Sir Thomas Overbury, writer, poisoned in the Tower of London, 1613; Isambard Kingdom Brunel, civil engineer, London, 1859; Anton von Webern, composer, Mittersill, Austria, 1945; Willy Messerschmitt, aircraft designer, Munich, 1978.

Today is Battle of Britain Day.

Forthcoming marriages

**Mr S. Barbour
and Miss K. Adam**
The engagement is announced between Stephen, son of Peter and Brigid Barbour, of Chipping Norton and Barnes, London, and Kathryn, daughter of the late Ken Adam, of Barnham, West Sussex and of Daphne Adam, of Richmond, Surrey.

**Mr C.P. Bromley
and Miss L.E. Paull**
The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs J.P. Bromley, of Crowmarsh Gifford, Oxfordshire, and Laline, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs George Paull, of Hendon.

**Mr J.R.B. Cavell
and Miss S.A.H. Geering**
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Mr and Mrs John Cavell, of Charing, Kent, and Sarah, elder daughter of the late Mr Christopher Geering and the late Mrs Elizabeth Flower and stepdaughter of Mr Richard Flower, of Westwell, Kent.

**Mr G.P.R. Dawson
and Miss S.B. Romero**
The engagement is announced between Guy, eldest son of Captain T.R.H. Dawson, of Hereford, and of Mrs A.D. Gatling, of Berwick St James, Wiltshire, and Susan, only daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel A. Romero and of Mrs A.G.T. Hadley, of Shrewsbury.

**Mr A. Ferrey
and Mrs A.S. Barrington Hirst**
The engagement is announced between Andrew, youngest son of Mrs Joan Ferrey and the late Mr Peter Ferrey, of York, and Angela Susan, widow of Mr Geoffrey Barrington Hirst, of Acaster Malbis.

**Mr P.J.M. Hardy
and Miss S.J. Gordon**
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr M. Hardy and Mrs M. Townsend, of Bournemouth, Dorset, and Susan, elder daughter of Professor and Mrs G. Gordon, of Milton of Campsie, Glasgow.

**Mr A.J. Jenkinson
and Miss S.L. Goldwater**
The engagement is announced between Anthony, son of Lorraine and John Jenkinson, of Scampton, Lincolnshire, and Sarah, daughter of Maureen and David Goldwater, of Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne.

**Dr S. Sherman
and Dr M. Lear**
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Ted and Juanita Sherman, of Worcester Park, and Millie, daughter of Nick and Harriet Lear, of Barcombe, Sussex.

**Mr D.A. Edwards
and Miss Z.P.H.M. Watson**
The engagement is announced between David, elder son of Mr Peter Edwards, of Sunninghill, Berkshire, and Mrs Marilyn Edwards, of Stanwell, Middlesex, and Zöe, only daughter of Mr William Watson, of Wall Heath, West Midlands, and Mrs Jean Watson, of Kidderminster, Worcestershire.

**Mr D.N.K. Johnston
and Miss G.S. Dodsworth**
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Johnston, of Helensburgh, Dumbartonshire, and Genevieve, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Dodsworth, of Bishopstoke, Hampshire.

**Dr W.M.H. Moore
and Dr A.M.J. Strachan**
The engagement is announced between William, younger son of Commander and Mrs M.J. Moore, of Lymington, Hampshire, and Alexandra, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.C.H. Strachan, of Primrose Hill, London.

**Mr R.J. Startin
and Dr C.M. Heath**
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs J.A. Startin, of Emsworth, Hampshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs A.R. Heath, of Kingston, near Lewes, East Sussex.

**Mr B.P. Weller
and Dr K.Y.M. Cheng**
The engagement is announced between Bryan, son of the late Mr Peter Weller and of Mrs Joan Weller, of Alresford, Hampshire, and Katharine, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Wai Ming (Fred) Cheng, of Heswall, Wirral.

Luncheon

English-Speaking Union
Mr Terry Waite was the speaker at a literary luncheon held yesterday during the English-Speaking Union's World Members' Conference in Harrogate. Baroness Brigstocke, chairman of the union, received the guests. Sir Reginald Harland, president of the ESU, East region, presided. Mrs Veronica McVey, deputy chairman, National Council for England and Wales, also spoke.

Memorial service

Mr Dick Hills
A memorial service to celebrate the life and work of Mr Dick Hills, scriptwriter, was held yesterday at St Catherine's, Pepys Road, London SE14. The Rev David Shaw (Old Askean) officiated.

Church services tomorrow

Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; 11 Choral Communion, Collegium Regale (Howells), Like as the hart (Howells); 3.30 Choral E, Watson in E, My soul there is a country (Parry).

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Ubi caritas (Duruflé), Ave verum (Byrd), Ven J Barton; 4 Choral E, Choral E, Second Service (Gibbons), Thou wilt keep him (Wesley); 6 Rathbone Society.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis Sancti Joannis de Deo (Haydn), The Provost; 4 Choral E, Te lucis ante terminum (Gardiner), Canon D Galilee.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 11 M, John Ireland in F, God so loved the world (Goss); 3.30 E, The New College Service (Howells), I have surely built thee an house to dwell in (Boyce).

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL, College Green: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Lift thine eyes (Mendelssohn), Mass for Upper Voices (Latham), Ave Maria (Saint Saens), The Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Bairstow in E flat, I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn), Canon A Redfern.

CADEIRLAN BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 Holy Euch; 9.45 Cymun Bendigaid, Missa Cambrensis (Williams), Y Gwir B C Mears; 11 Choral Euch, Darke in F, Ave verum (Mozart); 3.15 Choral E, Wood in E flat, Jubilate Deo (Britten); 5.30 Yr Wyl Gorawl, Ddr G Guest.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 9.30 M; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), O most merciful redeemer (Ridout), Rev Dr M Chandler; 3.15 E, Purcell in G minor, I will sing unto the Lord (Purcell), Rt Rev R Chartres; 6.30 Battle of Britain, Commemoration, Rev D Watson.

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 7.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Author of life Divine (Aston), Rev A Davis; 3 E, Battle of Britain, Stanford in B flat, Pièce Héroïque (Franck), Rev D Tankard.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Preston), Peace peace and true love's the gift (Wood), The Bishop; 6 Choral E, Howells in G, Set me as a seal (Walton), The Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Little Organ Mass (Haydn), Canon J Newcome; 11.30 Choral M, Britten in C, They that go down to the sea in ships (Sumsion), Canon T Dennis; 3.30 Choral E, Andrews in G, Rejoice in the Lamb (Britten); 6.30 E, Canon T Dennis.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch; 3.30 E, 8 HC; 10 M, Stanford in C, Lead me Lord (Wesley), The Precentor; 11 S Euch for Holy Cross & Admission of Choristers, Missa Brevis (Walton), Crux fidelis (John IV of Portugal), The Treasurer; 3.30 E, Smart in G, Veritas mea (Malcolm).

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 Communion; 10.30 Euch, Organ Solo Mass (Haydn), Ven M Paget-Wilkes; 5.30 E, If ye love me (Tallis), Teach me O Lord (Byrd); 7 City Celebration.

DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Short Service (Batten), Sing we merrily (Batten), Rev R Parsons; 6.30 Choral E, Wood in D, Comfort O Lord (Crotch), Rhapsody in D flat (Howells), Rev S Barby.

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, The Precentor; 10 M, Ireland in F, Blessed are the pure in heart (Davies), Canon D Hodgson; 11.15 HC, Mass in four parts (Byrd), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), The Dean; 3.30 E, Ireland in F, The Lord is my shepherd (Alain).

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC, The Dean; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solenelle (Langlais), Ubi caritas et amor (Duruflé), Rev Dr M Wadsworth; 3.45 E, Bairstow in D, I was glad when they said unto me (Parry).

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Above all praise (Mendelssohn), Harwood in A flat, Draw nigh (Ferguson), Preb J Trevelyan; 11.15 M, Elgar in F, Let all the world (Dyson), Canon Ison; 3 E, Plainsong, God so loved the world (Stainer); 6.30 E, Chants 276 & 274, The King shall rejoice (Handel), The Dean.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8, 12.15 HC; 10.15 Euch, Sumsion in F, Rev Dr J Tiller; 3 E, Aston in F, O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Howells).

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Stanford in C & F, Ave Maria (Arcadelt); 11.15 M, Stanford in B flat, Turn back O man (Holst); 3 Battle of Britain, Lacrymosa (Requiem K.626), The Bishop; 4.30 EP.

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Canon M Boyling; 3 Choral E, Rev G Davies; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & Litany; 8 Holy Euch, The Dean; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Dean; 11 S Euch, Darke in F, Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), Rev N Court; 12.15 Holy Euch; 3.30 Choral E, Wood in E flat, Though I speak with the tongues of men (Bairstow); 6.30 Parish E & Sermon, Rev M Tomlinson.

MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9, 10.30 HC, Canon J Atherton; 6.30 E, Canon J Atherton.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, The Provost; 9.30 S Euch, Canon B Langley; 6 Choral E.

NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Choral Euch, St Woolos Service (Shephard), Ave verum corpus (Elgar); 6.30 Choral E, Sumsion in A, Let all the world (Vaughan Williams).

NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.15 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), The Vice Dean; 3.30 E, Short Service (Cleobury), Seigneur, je vous en prie (Poulenc), The Bishop of Tasmania; 6.30 Celebration for health service, Strengthen ye the weak hands (Harris), I sat down under his shadow (Bairstow), The Dean.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M, Noble in B minor; 10.30 Euch, Stewards' 50th Anniversary, Missa Brevis in F, Ave verum corpus (Mozart), Very Rev R Wise; 3.30 E, Wood in E flat, The spirit of the Lord (Elgar).

RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch, Canon M Glanville-Smith; 9.30 Parish Euch, Ireland in C, Tantum Ergo (Duruflé), Rev P Wood; 11.30 M, Sumsion in G, O thou the central orb (Wood), Canon K Punshon; 12.30 Euch, Canon E Eason; 5.30 E, Stanford in A, O for a closer walk with God (Stanford), Rev D Paton-Williams.

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Head O my Lord (Whitlock), Canon C Porthouse; 11.15 Royal Engineers Memorial, My soul there is a country (Parry), The Bishop; 3.15 E, God be in my head (Rutter), Wood in F, I was glad (Parry); 6.30 Battle of Britain, Rev A Morris.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon J Davies; 10 Euch, Stanford in C, Christus factus est (Bruckner), Mr G Duncan; 11.30 M, Te Deum in C (Sumsion), Jubilate in C (Stanford), Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Canon J Osborne; 3 E, Harwood in A flat, O where shall wisdom be found? (Boyce); 6 Taize.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Sparrow Mass (Mozart), Steal away (Tippett), Canon J Sinclair; 11.45 Text for the Day; 3 Battle of Britain; 6.30 E & Sermon, Stanford in A, Evening Hymn (Gardiner), Cpt A Turner.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch, Rev R White; 11 Choral Euch, Vaughan Williams in G minor, I heard a voice (Weelkes), Ave verum (Elgar); 3 Choral E, St John's Service (Tippett), For lo, I raise up (Stanford), Rev G Swinton.

SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion; 11 M, Stanford in C, Haec dies quam fecit Dominus (Byrd), The Chancellor; 3.15 E, Collegium Magdalenae Oxoniense (Leighton), Lord thou hast been our refuge (Bairstow); 5.45 Healing, Canon J McGinley.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Jesu joy of man's desiring (Bach), Canon P Goodridge; 6 E, Second Service (Gibbons), Te lucis ante terminum (Gardiner), The Chancellor.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC, Canon I Knox; 9.15 Parish Communion, Rev A Jennings; 11 Solemn Euch, Sumsion in G, Let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Canon I Knox.

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Rev G Farran; 11.30 M, Collegium Regale (Howells), Let thy merciful ears (Mudd); 3 E, Blair in B minor, Christus factus est (Bruckner), Preb D Mitchell.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 11 Battle of Britain Sunday, Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), Rev J Shedden; 3 E, Westminster Service (Howells), Sing joyfully (Byrd), Canon A Harvey; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 Evening, Rev A Henderson.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Solemn Mass, Mass for five voices (Byrd), Sing joyfully (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Choral in A minor (Franck); 3.30 Solemn V & B, Magnificat quarti toni (Bevan), O sacrum convivium (Guerrero); 4.40 Organ Recital.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Jubilate in C (Britten), Ubi caritas et amor (Duruflé), The Dean; 11.30 Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Fugue sur la theme du Carillon des heures à Soissons (Duruflé); 3.30 E, Stanford in A, I was glad (Parry), The Archdeacon of Basingstoke.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 9.30 M; 10 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Tantum ergo (Duruflé), Rt Rev A Chesters; 11.45 Thanksgiving Service & Commemoration on Battle of Britain, Rev I Thomas; 4 E, Watson in E, Lobet den Herrn (Bach), Rev P Ferguson.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral M, Britten in C, Ave verum corpus (Walton, Kenneth Bowen; 3.30 EP.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid, Yr Archddiacon; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Succentor; 11.15 Choral M, Noble in B minor, View me Lord (Lloyd), The Dean; 6 Choral E, Brewer in D, I was glad (Parry), Rev N Crossey.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 Solemn M, Mass in C (Mozart), Ave verum (Byrd), Mgr D Lewis; 4.30-7 Nigerian prayers.

ST GILES' CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Morning HC, Rev J Williams; 10 Morning HC, Rev D Robertson, Gloria in Excelsis (Kodaly); 11.30 Battle of Britain, Rev (Wing Cdr) D Shaw, How lovely is thy dwelling place (Brahms); 6 St Giles at Six Mixed Choir of Jesus College; 8 Evening, Rev H Smith.

ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: 11 Morning, Behold the Tabernacle of God (Harris), Now in the Lord (Davie), Rev R Frazer; 6 Evening, Rev R Frazer.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Jubilate Deo in C (Britten), O saviour of the world (Ouseley), Rev J Halliburton; 3.15 E & Admission of Choristers, Brewer in D, Insanae et vanae curae (Haydn), Rev Dr R Burridge; 5.15 Organ Recital.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM, Mass for five voices (Byrd), The Vicar; 6 E&B, The St Paul's Service (Howells), Rev I Davies.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 Communion; 11 Family, Rev R Bewes; 6 All Souls Orchestra, Rev R Tice.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa ave Domine Jesu Christe (Monteverdi), God is a spirit (Sterndale Bennett), Tantum ergo in C (Bruckner).

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), Mr J Watherston; 6 E, Mr D Royce.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15; 6.30, Rev S Hood.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, Missa Aeterne Christi munera (Palestrina), Gloria Patri (Blow); 12.30, 4.30, 7 Mass; 3.30 V & B, O bone Jesu (Brahms).

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 Morning, Rev Dr L Griffiths.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 HC, Rev Dr P Graves; 6.30 Rev P Graves.

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, South Kensington: 11 Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Above all Praise and all Majesty (Mendelssohn).

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Bach Vespers, Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen (Bach), Lobet den Herrn, Concerto in F minor, Rev Dr H Hoffman.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Missa O Rex gloriae (Lobo), Crux fidelis (King John of Portugal), The Rector; 6.30 E, Second Service (Gibbons), Crucifixus (Lotti), The Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate, Short Service (Weelkes), Oldroyd in D, Dyson (Lauds), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Kelly in C, The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), Guild Chaplain W Boulton.

ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Battle of Britain, Jubilate (Stanford in A), My soul there is a country (Parry), Rev J Thomas.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev C MacLeod; 6.30 Presbytery Service of Licensing of Mr P Johnston.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Missa Octavi Toni (Asola), O Admirabile Commercium (Des Prez), Ave Verum (Victoria).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, The Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), Ave verum (Elgar), Rev D Lawson; 6 Choral E, Dyson in F, Thou wilt keep him (Wesley).

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev S Cathie; 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family, Sortie (Guilmant), Rev M Okello; 6.30 Welcome service for the Bishop of Chelmsford, Carillon (Vierne).

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family Communion; 11 S Euch, Stanford in C, Like as the hart (Howells), Rev T Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 10 M with hymns; 11.15 Euch, Missa brevis (Kodaly), Mater Christi (Taverner), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, The Vicar; 11.30 Visitors, Rev C Herbert; 12.30 HC, Rev W Ratchford; 2.45 Chinese, Rev J Bennett; 5 Choral E; 6.30 Evening, Rev B Cave.

ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, The Vicar; 11.15 Choral M, Rev F Gelli; 6.30 E, Rev M Fuller.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (A Gabrieli), Gloria a 7 (Monteverdi), Stabat Mater (Palestrina), Fr J Gilling; 6 Solemn E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Festal Euch, Stanford in B flat, Locus iste (Bruckner), Fr E Wheat; 6 Choral E, Dyson in D, I was glad (Parry).

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass in C (Schubert), They that go down to the sea in ships (Sumsion), Rev I Ogilvie.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8, 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Solo voice service, Rev H Ruschmeyer.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), O worship the Lord (Wesley), Carillon 'Orientibus partibus' (Wills), Fr D Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner St, SW3: 11 HC (1662), Missa Brevis (Caesar), Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace (Wesley), Ave verum (Lassus), Rev R Ballard; 6.30 E.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Short Service (Tallis), Prevent us O Lord (Byrd), Rev P Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Battle of Britain; 3.30 E.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass in C (Mozart), Gloria (Hobson), Praeludium in G minor (Tunder), Rev S Hobbs.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Deliver us O Lord our God (Batten), Lord my trust is in Thy Mercy (Mendelssohn), Band of the Welsh Guards, Rev C Gilbert; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 S Euch, Wood in the Phygian Mode, Sicut cervus (Palestrina), Rev N Stacey.

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How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the herald, the bringer of good news, announcing deliverance.
Isaiah 52 : 7 (REB)

BIRTHS

BANNISTER - On September 9th in New York to Elizabeth (Tizzie) and Thurstan, a son, Edmund Thurstan Royce.

BANNISTER-PARKER - On September 11th in London to Charlotte and William, a son, Roderick Everett.

BERNHARD - On September 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Julie and Dennis, a son, Alec Henry.

COWDELL - On 7th September, to Philippa and David, a daughter, Hannah Louise.

HAMILTON - On 8th September 1996, to Lynn and Alan, a daughter, Ashleigh Elizabeth, a sister for Catriona.

HOBART - On September 10th 1996, to Ursula (née Williams) and Christian, a daughter, Chloe Iona Clementine.

HORNYOLD-STRICKLAND - On September 7th, to Janey (née Fothergill) and John, a daughter, Katharine Alice (Katie).

IRELAND - On 5th September 1996, to Norma (née Tang) and Colin, a daughter, Elise Marie.

LOOI - On 21st August, to Mark and Gloria, a daughter, Laura Lai Ming, a sister for James.

MINKS - On August 18th in Liverpool, to Julia (née Grayson) and Dale, a daughter, Elizabeth (Beth) Hannah, a sister for Alice.

REED - On September 10th at St Mary's, London, to Nicola (née Arkell) and James, a son, Patrick James, a brother for Rosanna, Tessa and Harold.

BIRTHS

SUTHERLAND - We are proud to announce at The Portland Hospital the arrival of our much desired son Tyler Muldoon Sutherland on Saturday 7th September at 8.57 am. Alan and Pamela Sutherland.

WISEMAN - On Monday 9th September 1996 in Chelsea and Westminster Hospital a beautiful baby boy - Barnaby. Warmest welcome into our family.

DEATHS

BECKHOUGH - On September 8th at Harrogate District Hospital aged 78 years. Joan beloved wife of Harry inseparable for 47 years. Sadly missed by our children Nigel and Jennifer and beloved grandchildren Thomas and Charlotte but most of all by her grieving husband. Funeral Service Monday 16th September.

BISDEE - On 12th September, 1996 peacefully in Chichester, West Sussex whilst convalescing from a series of hard fought illnesses. Phyll (née Wallace) of Kirk Michael, Isle of Man, aged 86. Nurse, Midwife late-QARANC, loyal wife to the late Morris Sutherland Worgan Bisdee OBE, MRCS, LRCP, late-RAMC. The very greatest of Mums to Graeme of Newport News, Virginia, and Morris of Chicester, and "Joint Bestest" Grandmother, with Granny Ray, to Rachel and Poppy. Funeral on Thursday 26th September at Birdham Parish Church.

DEATHS

BLAKE - On Friday September 13th 1996, Michael John Lyndon, Commander, Royal Navy. Burial private at sea.

CHAMBERLAIN - Irene Mary peacefully aged 102 years on 7th September. Mother of Geoffrey and Rosalind, eight grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren. Funeral Service at Tredegarville Baptist Church, The Parade, Cardiff, on Tuesday 24th September at 2 pm followed by cremation at Thornhill Crematorium, Llanishen, Cardiff. Flowers may be sent to James Summers and Son, Roath Court, Newport Road, Cardiff, tel: (01222) 484506.

COLE - Ruth of Ely, Cambridgeshire after a short illness, peacefully at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge on Thursday 12th September 1996 aged 80 years. Dearly loved wife of the late Rev. R.J. Cole and much loved mother, sister, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral service at St Peter's Church, Fordham, Cambridgeshire on Monday 23rd September 1996 at 2.30 pm followed by interment. Family flowers only, but donations for Ely Cathedral - Music Guild may be left at the service or sent to Ely Funeral Service, Tower Road, Ely, Cambs. CB7 4HW.

EASTWOOD - Jenny, died on 12th September 1996. Requiem Mass and funeral will be at 2.30 pm on Tuesday 17th September 1996 at St Thomas' Chapel, Claughton, nr. Garstang, Lancashire.

DEATHS

GEPP - On 13th September 1996 after a long illness borne with great bravery and fortitude, Evelyn Phillips, beloved wife of Thomas and dear mother of Sarah, Annabel and Christy and adored Franny of five grandchildren. Family funeral.

GULLIVER - James Gerald C.V.O. Peacefully at The Royal Infirmary Edinburgh on 12th September 1996 James beloved husband of Melania. Loving father of James, Flora, Andrew, Alison and Iain, and grandfather of Luke and Amelia. Sadly missed by all the family. A service will be held at St Stephens Parish Church, St Vincent Street, Edinburgh on Tuesday September 17th at 12 noon to which all friends are invited, followed by a private cremation. Flowers if so desired may be sent to W.T. Dunbar & Sons, 116 Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

LAW - Dick, adored husband of Dinny, on September 12th in hospital on the Isle of Wight. Very loved father of Christopher and Tim and daughter-in-law Bernadette and granddaughters Lottie, Amy, Emma and Katherine. Loving brother to Jeannie.

LAW - Graham Couper RSA peacefully at home on Friday September 13th 1996, dearly loved husband of Isobel, father of Catherine, Sarah, Jennifer and Andrew, much loved father-in-law and grandfather. Service at Dalmeny Kirk on Tuesday September 17th at 2.30 pm. All friends welcome. Flowers to John Armstrong Funeral Home, 29 Hopetoun Road, South Queensferry, EH30 9RH.

DEATHS

LUKEY - Percy "Pat" on September 5th peacefully at home aged 93. Retired Wine Merchant. Greatly loved and missed by all his family.

McVICKER - On September 12th 1996 at his home, in Bangor, Alexander, beloved husband of Gladys. Service in Bangor Abbey on Monday September 16th at 11.30 am followed by cremation at Roselawn at 1 pm. House private. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu if desired for Royal National Lifeboat Institute c/o John Gray & Co., 80 Central Avenue, Bangor. Will be sadly missed by his loving wife.

MILLS - Bob, died quietly at his home in Forest Hill, Oxford on Wednesday September 11th 1996 with his wife Betty and his son beside him. Funeral Service at St Nicholas Church, Forest Hill on Tuesday September 17th at 12 noon followed by interment in the Burial Ground.

PUGH - Janet, peacefully at Yeovil Hospital on 11th September, much loved wife, mother and grandmother. Cremation at Yeovil Friday 20th September at 12.30 pm. Thanksgiving Service at St Nicholas Silton, Dorset, 3pm Saturday 28th September. Friends welcome at either service. Family flowers only. Donations if wished to St Andrew Stoke Trister and St Nicholas Silton. Enquiries to Vale Funeral Services, (01963) 362319.

DEATHS

ROBINSON - Gill, dearly beloved wife of Michael and mother of Polly, Tashna and Javed, aged 58, died peacefully at home on September 11th after a long illness. Funeral will be held at Sapperton Church, near Cirencester, Gloucestershire on Tuesday 17th September at 3 pm. Flowers to Cowley & Sons, Cirencester. Donations if desired to the Meyerstein Institute of Oncology, The Middlesex Hospital, Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AA.

SCOTT-ELLIOT - Major General James Scott-Elliot CB, CBE, DSO, on Thursday 12th September. Husband of Fay, formerly husband of Peggie and father of Alastair, Lavinia and Juliet. Cremation private. Memorial Service to be announced later.

SHABY - Munir Aboody, on Thursday 12th September aged 73, died peacefully at Gatwick Park Hospital from heart failure. Service at Surrey and Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Road, near Crawley, on Monday 16th September at 11.15 am. Procession leaves from family home at 10.45am. No flowers. Donations to the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association c/o 12 Blanford Road, Reigate, RH2 7DR.

DEATHS

SHARPE - On September 12th 1996, peacefully at his home in Westfield, New Jersey after a long illness, Mark Edward Vernon, aged 53, beloved husband of Mary Ann, father of Geoffrey and David and only son of Adrian and 'Cesca of Trebetherick, Cornwall. The Funeral Service is being held at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Scotch Plains, NJ. A Memorial Service will be held in the home counties on a date to be announced. Donations may be sent to a cancer research charity of choice.

SLATER - Susan peacefully in hospital on September 13th. Affectionately remembered by her husband John, children Simon, Elizabeth, William and Judith and grandchildren Nicola, Thomas, Camilla, Matthew and Rory. Following a private cremation a Thanksgiving Service will be held at Crondall Parish Church at 12 noon on Wednesday September 18th. Enquiries to Goddard's F/S (01252) 616431.

WAHL - Professor Anthony Nicholas, died in London on Friday 13th September. Funeral arrangements to be announced.

DEATHS

YERBURY - Drusilla Mary 'Mollie' (née Dunn) on 13th September, very peacefully at home in Hartford, Cambridgeshire. Widow of Air Vice-Marshal Richard Clyffe 'Hank' Yerbury CBE, QHS, MBBS, DPH, much loved mother of Annie, Nicholas and Clare. She will be greatly missed by her grandchildren Nicholas, Jonathon and his wife Máire, Lucy, Richard, Camilla, Matthew and Jesse and her great-grandson Ruari and by her sons-in-law Francis Freeman and Tim Fox and her daughter-in-law Jackie. A service to celebrate her life will be held on Thursday 19th September at 2.30 pm at All Saints Church, Hartford, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. At Mollie's request no flowers but donations to "All Saints Hartford P.C.C." c/o Dennis Easton Funeral Directors, The Lodge, Broadleas, St Ives, Cambs.

IN MEMORIAM — WAR

2ND KING EDWARD VII's OWN GOORKHAS (SIRMOOR RIFLES) DELHI DAY 14TH SEPTEMBER - On this day the members of the Sirmoor Club remember with pride all those who gave their lives in the service of the Regiment from 1815 to 1994.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

COWDEROY - A Memorial Service in memory of the late Richard Ian will be held at St Peters Church, Church Avenue, Farnborough on Friday 20th September, 1996 at 1 pm.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

DAVALLOU - In loving memory of my beloved son Djahangir Davallou who passed away on 15th September 1989 and is sadly missed. Begum Ghamar Ispahani.

GELSTHORPE - Remember Ida Louise (née Lasbrey), who was born at Uttoxeter on 9th December 1886, and died at Yelverton on 14th September 1976, a faithful follower of the Way. St John 10. 27,28.

IN MEMORIAM— PRIVATE

THOMAS - Francis Stewart (Frank) September 15th 1971. All my love always. Mardie.

DIAMOND ANNIVERSARIES

MEYRICK:LASHBROOKE - John Edward to Dorothy June 20th September 1936 St Margaret's, Isleworth. Now at Longfield, Dartford, Kent. Congratulations, love Diane, Gerard and Vivienne.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

JERROLD:GODFREY - On 14th September 1946, Arthur to Edith, South Elmsall. Many congratulations and much love from all the family on your Golden Wedding Day.

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OBITUARIES

JAMES GULLIVER

James Gulliver, CVO, former chairman of the Argyll Group, died of a heart attack on September 12 aged 66. He was born on August 17, 1930.

When, in December 1985, James Gulliver launched his bid for the drinks giant Distillers, the name of his company, Argyll Group, was hardly known outside the City. Yet, even in a year of audacious corporate cannibalism such as 1985 was, the Argyll Group's £1.9 billion offer was spectacularly breathtaking. Certainly it put in the shade Guinness's bid, made during the summer, of £300 million for the whisky firm Arthur Bell, of "Afore Ye Go" fame.

For James Gulliver it was a long, long way from his father's grocery shop in Campbeltown, Argyllshire. Most of his career had been spent in retailing. He had, notably, revitalised the Fine Fare supermarket chain as its managing director and chairman in the 1970s and had been named Young Businessman of the Year in 1972 before striking out on his own with Argyll.

Indeed, it was a desire to return to his roots and prove himself on his home ground that led Gulliver to bid for Distillers. The company, though one of Scotland's most famous, was then in decline, with its home market share in whisky down to 15 per cent from 75 per cent in the 1960s.

Yet Distillers, notwithstanding that its creaking federal system was outdated and many of its brand names were fighting against each other, was still rich in assets. Among other things it was owner of that perhaps most famous of all Scotch whiskies, Johnnie Walker, and of the brand name synonymous with gin — Gordons. Had Gulliver pulled the deal off it would have established him as the most powerful of Scotland's business sons and crowned his career with the kind of success for which he had always hungered.

But it was not to be. Guinness, in the person of Ernest Saunders, now entered the fray. In spite of Saunders's earlier assurances to Gulliver that the wear and tear of the Bell takeover had been so great that no such bid would be considered, he entered into highly secret negotiations with the board of Distillers. Somewhat alarmed by Gulliver's radical restructuring plans for Distillers, its directors — always a fundamentally conservative bunch at heart — were much more amenable to the Guinness approach. When Argyll found out what was going on and counter-attacked with a higher price, £2.3 billion, Saunders himself riposted, with a complex series of share support operations which appeared to sustain the value of the Guinness bid, and at the same time to carry assurances that Distillers need not fear restructuring of the kind it apprehended from Gulliver.

In what was to begin as the most acrimonious of takeovers and become the biggest business scandal of the 1980s, Sullivan lost his bid to Guinness, which then abandoned all the promises on restructuring it had made to its new acquisition. But the roughest takeover the City had seen in years turned into a notorious fraud case when four businessmen stood trial for the manipulation of the Guinness share price which had enabled it to triumph over Argyll. In August 1990 Ernest Saunders received a jail sentence for his part in the illegal share support operation.

Sullivan always felt bitter over being, as he saw it, cheated out of a takeover which would have been good for Scotland and was a matter of personal pride. If it is an exaggeration to say it broke his spirit, then he never quite recovered from it. Apart from anything else the cost of his failed bid eventually came to more than £34 million. There were to be further advances for Argyll, such as the takeover of the British arm of the American-owned Safeway chain in 1987. But the acquisition on which Sullivan had set his heart, as the crowning achievement of his business career, was denied to him.

James Gerald Gulliver was born in Argyll and educated at Campbeltown Grammar School and the University of Glasgow. He later had a period of study in America at the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Between 1956 and 1959 he served in the Royal Navy on a short service commission before embarking on a career in management consultancy with Urwick, Orr & Partners in 1961. But telling other people how to run their companies when he had never run one himself was not really to his taste. It was his move to Fine Fare in 1965 which gave him the opportunity to show what he was made of. At that time the supermarket chain was making substantial losses.

Gulliver started in a modest enough way on the shopfitting side. But what he achieved there in a very short time saw his translation to managing director of the whole Fine Fare operation within a matter of months. He revitalised the chain from top to bottom and by the 1970s it had gone into a handsome profit, earning for Sullivan, who was its chairman from 1967 to 1972, a businessman of the year award.

This was a triumph of major proportions, but working for others was not his metier. He left Fine Fare intending to set up in the food and drinks business on his own, taking it as a sort of backhanded compliment that the company managed legally to prevent him from setting up in opposition. He next bought a stake in Oriel, a food distribution business. He built it up substantially and when it was bought out in 1974 by the American entertainments company RCA he made his first million.

After a few more operations — very much caretaker stuff by his standards — he took a stake in Louis C. Edwards, an ailing Manchester butchery firm. This became the launching pad for a business career which — most satisfyingly — included his taking over his old company Oriel. He also acquired Allied Suppliers from James Goldsmith. The subsequent acquisition of the Scottish grocery chains Galbraith and Templeton and a merger with Amalgamated Distilled Products saw him at the head of one of Britain's largest food and drinks groups. In 1977 James Gulliver Associates was born, soon to become the Argyll Group.

After the catastrophe of the Distillers affair and the losses it involved, Argyll naturally had to pause. When Sullivan decided to move ahead again, the acquisition of the 130 Safeway supermarkets in Britain put the firm into third place in the British supermarket league behind Tesco and Sainsbury. But with the business ethos becoming less buoyant as the 1980s drew to a close, a buyout of the carpet and furniture empire Lowndes Queensway in 1988 proved to be something of a disaster. Losses mounted, the company went into receivership and in 1990 Sullivan stepped down as chairman. He had already relinquished the chairmanship of the Argyll Group.

It was the end of his business career, but he continued to be active in a number of spheres. He was a vice-president of Manchester United FC and a vice-chairman of Hearts. In addition he was a trustee of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme, work for which he was apointed CVO in this year's Birthday Honours.

He was four times married and is survived by his fourth wife Melanie, and by the three sons and two daughters of his first marriage.

JOANNE DRU

Joanne Dru, screen actress, died on September 10 aged 73. She was born on January 31, 1923.

JOANNE DRU was a stunning American actress of the 1940s and 1950s, who combined the colouring of Vivien Leigh with the screen magnetism of Ava Gardner. She made about 40 films, many of them westerns, including *Red River*, *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* and *Wagonmaster*. Had she not been so irreverent towards Hollywood, she could certainly have gone further. As it was, she worked hard only when she needed to, and two of her four husbands, the singer Dick Haymes and a businessman, C. V. Wood, were fabulously wealthy men.

Joanne LaCock, as she was christened, was born in Logan, West Virginia. Her father, a pharmacist, died when she was 14 and she and her mother and brother Peter settled in New York. Joanne and Peter changed their surname to Marshall (Peter became a celebrated gameshow host). Joanne, at 14, became a photographic model. At 15 she was dancing in shows and at 18 she was married to a young singer, Dick Haymes.

She stayed with Haymes for seven turbulent years, during which time she had three children and watched him become a big star. But the swiftness of his success unsettled him and he began to drink heavily. He and Joanne were divorced in 1949, by which time her own career as an actress had taken off.

This had come about by accident when her friend Margaret Sheridan had become pregnant during the preproduction of Howard Hawks's *Red River*. Hawks could not film around her, so Sheridan suggested he should hire Joanne instead. Taking the screen name of Dru, Joanne gave an excellent performance as a gun-toting heroine.

Red River took four years to be released and in the interim her second film, *Abie's Irish Rose* (1946), was released. But when *Red River* did finally hit the cinemas in 1948 it made Dru a star. This was just as well because her marriage, along with her husband's career, was in tatters.

Dru, however, did not take her art particularly seriously. Among other things, she said, the boned bodices of the obligatory long gingham dresses were miserable to wear.

Westerns remained Dru's speciality. John Ford, (whose daughter Barbara Nugent was Dru's best friend), cast her in two classic westerns. In *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (1949), her favourite film, she played Olivia, the woman beloved by two young lieutenants who each vie to have her wear a ribbon as a love token. John Wayne, this time cast as a grizzled cavalry officer, looked after her on set. Ford was obviously keen to promote Dru and the new Ben Johnson and gave them good parts and lots of close-ups. Ford also cast her in *Wagonmaster* (1950), again opposite Ben Johnson, in a film about a Mormon wagon train.

More westerns followed in the 1950s, none of them as distinguished as these three early classics: *Vengeance Valley* (1951), *The Siege at Red River* (1954), *The Wild and the Innocent* (1959). Two of her few non-westerns were the interesting crime melodrama *711 Ocean Drive* (1950) and a biography of the baseball star Dizzy Dean in *The Pride of St Louis* (1952), in which she showed that she could also play comedy. She had her own television series in the early 1960s, *Guestward Ho*, about a New York couple who give up city life to run a New Mexico ranch.

Her acting career had slipped into second gear but she did not bemoan the fact. In 1949 she had married the actor John Ireland, whom she met on the set of *Red River*. After that and another brief marriage had ended in divorce, she married her fourth and last husband, C. V. Wood, the president of an oil company. They remained together happily for 26 years until his death. Dru no longer needed to work, and devoted her life to entertaining friends and to travelling.

Her husband owned land in Arizona and it was his lasting distinction to be remembered as the man who brought the present London Bridge's rather unremarkable predecessor to the American desert. He initially believed himself to be buying Tower Bridge and to be saving it from decay and demolition. Indeed at one point he accidently described his intended purchase as "the leaning Tower of Pisa". But his mistake, once discovered, did not bother the good-natured "Woody", who proudly erected the landmark on American soil, even though he had to divert a river to do so.

He died four years ago. A daughter, Barbara Nugent (named after John Ford's daughter), also predeceased Joanne Dru. She is survived by her other daughter and by a son from her first marriage.

DAVID DONALDSON

ROYAL COLLECTION © HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

Donaldson's portrait of the Queen wearing the robes of the Order of the Thistle

David Donaldson, the Queen's Painter and Limner in Scotland, died on August 22 aged 80. He was born on June 29, 1916.

TO BE painted by David Donaldson — and many of the great and the good sat for him down the years — was to experience not just the close attention of an artist rooted in the Scottish colourist tradition, but the congenial company of a great wit and raconteur. Donaldson's sense of humour was pure Glasgow, his language as colourful as his canvases, and his stock of anecdotes, many told against himself, apparently limitless.

His students at the Glasgow School of Art where he first learnt, then taught for more than 50 years, adored him because he never spoke down to them, instead sitting beside them and talking them through their work, sometimes using his own brush to explain a point. A volatile man, his temper could be awesome, but he was rarely angry for long, and he would make amends with the offer of a bacon roll or a glass of white wine.

As an artist, he may be remembered more for his still lifes, which reflected what he called "the immaculate grammar and beauty of paint", than for his portraits, which were of uneven quality. His exuberance did not always sit easily with the gravity required for official studies of such subjects as the Queen or Margaret Thatcher. But his self-portraits — naked, with strategically placed flower, or nattily dressed with fish supper — reflected a natural irreverence.

Later on they became darker and more introspective, and his *Self-Portrait in Winter*, painted in 1978, may well rank as his best. He had no time for the abstract and was impatient of students who rejected the discipline of draughtsmanship. "In Glasgow drawing was holy writ," he told his biographer, W. Gordon Smith, in 1995. "There was no talk of aesthetics, none of the semi-amateurish psychiatry which modern art schools have doused themselves with. It was purely an engineering process and it stayed with me all the time I was in the school of art — and still does."

David Abercrombie Donaldson was born in poverty, and brought up in extraordinary circumstances — "a wee bastard who was bairned up a close in Coatbridge" as he described himself. Fostered out by his unmarried parents, he was brought back to his grandparents' council house at the age of four. There he grew up under the same roof as his natural father, but without being told who he was — David imagined he was a big brother.

Later, even more bizarrely, his natural mother was employed there as a housemaid, again without David knowing who she was. And, in a final irony, he was dressed up in a kilt at the age of eleven to attend their wedding, though it was not until he had reached his teens that he was informed that they were his parents. Given such a disturbed childhood, it is remarkable that Donaldson became a life-enhancing figure.

At school he was encouraged by a teacher and a local Baptist minister to apply for entry to the Glasgow School of Art, and, despite a complete lack of qualifications, he was admitted at the age of 15. He described it as "a flight from reality", and for the first few years he just "hung around" — though he enjoyed the life-classes. Then he was taken up by the school's director, William (later Sir William), Hutchison who recognised his artistic ability and encouraged him to express himself directly through paint. He also helped him socially and financially.

Hugh Crawford, acknowledged as one of the greatest of Glasgow's art teachers, also became his mentor, and Ian Fleming, who thought he was the outstanding student of his generation, taught him etching. In 1937 Hutchison awarded Donaldson the Haldane travelling scholarship, a coveted prize which allowed him to go to Paris and Florence. "The book was opened for me at just the right place," he was to say later. "It would be truthful to say that it was crucial."

Soon after his return Hutchison offered Donaldson five shillings an hour to teach in the night school. In 1940 he joined the staff of the GSA, and 27 years later was made head of the painting school, a post he held until 1981.

Declared unfit for war service, partly because of his height (he was barely five feet tall) he carried on teaching through the war years. In 1942 he married Kathleen Boyd Maxwell, and then, when they were divorced, he met and fell in love with one his students, Marysia (Maria) Mora-Szorc, whom he described as "a wee Polish girl with an incredibly attractive accent". They were married in 1948, and her elfin features became the subject of scores of his paintings over the next 40 years.

Increasingly, Donaldson was sought as a a portrait painter. Politicians, churchmen and captains of industry sat for him, and he relished the challenges they presented. Above all he enjoyed painting women. "You have," he said, "to paint from beneath your navel. Perhaps it's the best compliment you can pay to any woman." That approach did not, however, quite succeeed when he was invited to paint Margaret Thatcher at the height of the Westland crisis. She gave him three hurried sittings and he acknowledged that it was "like writing a short story instead of a novel". On the other hand his *Annette and the Elders*, painted in 1980, is brimful of humanity and wry observation.

In 1977 he was appointed the Queen's Painter and Limner in Scotland, an honorary post rather like that of Poet Laureate, and he was given doctorates by both Strathclyde and Glasgow universities. Last June saw the publication of his biography, and, to mark his 80th birthday, a major retrospective exhibition at the Talbot Rice Gallery in Edinburgh. Both the book and the exhibition demonstrated the enthusiasm and energy of a genuine painter.

He is survived by his wife, Marysia, by a son from his first marriage, and by two daughters from his second.

PERSONAL COLUMN

TICKETS FOR SALE

TICKETS FOR SALE

When responding to advertisements readers are advised to establish the face value and full details of tickets before entering into any commitment. Most sports tickets are subject to strict re-sale and transfer rules.

ALL AVAIL: Phantom, Oliver, all theatre, C.Dione, T. Turner, Rugby all sport 0171 480 6183

ALL TICKETS 5 Nations, Tina Turner, Proms, C. Dione, all major pop, sport & theatre. Tel: 0171 925 0085

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TEINWAY GRAND Model A No 511152 Ebony high gloss. New 1990. Superb and immaculate. £27,260. 01234 781248

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ADVENTUROUS sailing crew wanted for round the world rally on 65ft yacht. Jan 97 - May 98. 20 stops through tropics. Shared costs with husband, wife & 2 yr son. 01473 689178

LOOKING to purchase William Churchill paintings. Contact Reece in London from 14 Sept.

GIFTS

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FLOWERS BY POST year round, 12 Carnations £9.50, 18 £12.25, 24 £17.00. 12 Carnations and 25 Freesias £17.00. 25 Freesias £10.00. 24 Carnations & 25 Freesias £23.50. Card and message inc. La Neuve Maison Nursery, St Saviour's, Guernsey, C.I.Tel 01481 63052. CC's. Fax 01481 66013

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SITUATIONS VACANT

U.S. Family looking for Experienced Nanny to care for 2 year old and newborn. Send C.V. (resume) and full picture to:

FLATSHARE

LARGE double room in luxury flat. 50m from Earl's Ct tube. Shared kit/living rm. £120 inc pw. Professional non-smoker prefered. Tel: 0171 373 5374

PUTNEY - Professional person sought to share lovely 2 bedroom flat overlooking common. Large double room, £95 pw + bills. 0181 789 4717 Pauline.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A FOURTH WAY SCHOOL in the living tradition of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky now accepting students 0181 347 5853.

DUE to the recent magic events, the wizt chess club meetings will be cancelled until further notice. Will Mr Scott please collect his chess set from the hotel reception.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF FINE WINE AND FOOD OLYMPIA 2 24th–27th OCTOBER 1996

TICKET HOTLINE: 0171 244 0338

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ESTELLE, Dewsbury please send name and address lost your letter. Thank you for information about book. E.C. Mctaggart.

"In lieu of flowers, donations to the RSPB"

What more effective tribute could there be for a friend or relative who loved the countryside and wild birds?

The RSPB is the charity that takes action for wild birds and the environment. For details on how to make a donation that is a lasting tribute to a loved one, just phone Elaine McHugh on 01767 680551.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Regd charity no 207076.

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION
Charity - The Quintin Hogg Trust
The Commissioners have made a Scheme for this Charity. A copy can be obtained by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to St. Alban's House, 57-60 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4QX quoting reference number TG-31195-CD(Ldn).

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

DAVIES, WYNIFRED MARY of 14 Cromford Way, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3AZ died on 16 April 1996 particulars to D B Morris & Co, Solicitors of 23 Golden Square, London, W1R 3PA before 15 November 1996

DENISE HARDMAND of 36 Agecroft Road West, Prestwich, Manchester, died on the 1st June 1996 particulars to Pincks Ross Lipworth, solicitors, 25 St John Street, Manchester M3 4DT before 17th December 1996.

LEVEY, ALEXANDER FRITZ GEORGE of 176 Eton Road, Ilford IG1 2UL died on 10 May 1996 particulars to Kidd Rapinet Solicitors of 14 & 15 Craven Street,

ON THIS DAY

September 14, 1925

The TUC in its final session at Scarborough got the bit between its teeth, calling for the end of private ownership of land and threatening dire things for the British Empire.

DISRUPTING THE EMPIRE.

TRADES CONGRESS RESOLUTION.

(From Our Labour Correspondent.)

SCARBOROUGH, SEPT. 12

The Trades Union Congress, at its concluding session to-day, carried a resolution denouncing the private ownership of land and demanding its expropriation without compensation of any kind. It followed this by a resolution in opposition to Imperialism, which was made to appear as synonymous with "the domination of non-British peoples by the British Government", and this domination was, in turn, described as "a form of capitalist exploitation having for its object the securing for British capitalists of cheap sources of raw materials and the right to exploit cheap and unorganized labour and to use the competition of cheap labour to degrade the workers's standards in Great Britain". The resolution went on to promise that congress would support the right of all peoples in the Empire to self-determination, including the right to choose complete separation from the Empire.

The Congress approached the resolutions as if they were commonplace matters and had no relation to affairs of the utmost political moment. It was an attenuated gathering, fully half the delegates having left, and it was dispatching the remaining items on the agenda at the rate of half a dozen in an hour. In this rush and bustle it decided that the landowners should be taxed out of existence, and that the Empire should be given over as prey to the disruptive forces which Moscow is letting loose against it. The resolution itself might have been drafted in Moscow, so closely did it conform to the lines on which the Communist Party is conducting the campaign against this country.

Mr. J.H. Thomas, M.P. endeavoured to bring the delegates who remained to a sense of responsibility and some recognition of the true state of the case. He realised that the Congress would make itself ridiculous by passing summary judgement on a whole series of large and complicated problems affecting Egypt, Palestine, Kenya and the Union of South Africa after but a few moments' consideration. His experience at the Colonial Office enabled him to point out that the Labour opinion of the Dominions would not endorse the views submitted in support of the resolution.

The intervention was without avail. It only served to provoke Mr. Harry Pollitt, the secretary of the Minority Movement, to attack Mr. Thomas and his Imperialism in the same way as, the day before, he had artfully made use of the opportunity provided by the discussion on the Davies Report to attack Mr. Ramsey MacDonald and to throw discredit on the Labour Government — an example of the Communist antagonism to the Socialism which adheres to the principle of democracy.

The result of the voting for the new General Council was announced but a question arose as to the accuracy of the figures and a recount was ordered. Most of the retiring members of the council who were opposed were re-elected. An exception to the rule was the defeat of Miss J. Varley, who is succeeded by Miss Bondfield. The uncontested elections returned Mr. J.H. Thomas, M.P., and Mr T. Richards, Mr. Richards takes the place of Mr. Herbert Smith as one of the miners' nominees. Mr. E. Bevin shares with Mr. B. Tillett the representation of the transport workers other than railwaymen. On the whole the council is rather less 'left' than its predecessor. All the retiring members who have manifested definitely Communist leanings have been returned, but, on the other hand, the anti-Communists have now better leadership. The pro-Communists do not constitute more than one fourth of the Council

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1996

NEWS

Unions warn Blair on cutting ties

■ Trade union leaders warned that Labour would be be committing political suicide if it went ahead with plans to sever the party's links with the unions. John Monks, the TUC's general secretary, said that its conference in Blackpool had been dominated by "confusion not clarity" and demanded a "surer touch" from Labour .... **Pages 1, 5, 21**

Gulf awaits new airstrikes

■ Eight US Stealth fighter-bombers landed at Kuwait's Al Jaber air base as dusk fell last night. With the expectation growing of fresh airstrikes against Iraq, the Kuwaiti Government defended its decision to allow the United States to bolster its military strength in the region .... **Pages 1, 12**

Nazi gold order

The Swiss Government is to order all bank records and accounts of financial dealings with the Nazis to be handed to a special investigating commitee .... **Page 1**

GP struck off

A GP who treated a brain tumour patient aged five with homoeopathic remedies was ordered to be struck off........ **Page 3**

Actress hailed

The West End star Elaine Paige received a prolonged standing ovation on her long-delayed Broadway debut........ **Page 4**

Man on run

A psychiatric patient with a history of violence was being hunted by police after escaping from a secure unit .... **Page 7**

Blind 'can see'

Blind people have had their sight partially restored by microchip implants in their brains, a researcher said .... **Page 8**

Slender interest

The overweight are seeking help from cowboy slimming clinics because GPs are not interested in them, experts say .... **Page 10**

Feuding clerics

The Church of England has become a hotbed of disputes and feuding, according to a church commentator .... **Page 11**

Kohl wins cuts

German ministers were roused from sickbeds and deputies bullied to support Helmut Kohl's spending cuts .... **Page 13**

Clinton Aids query

President Clinton was asked if he has venereal disease or Aids after refusing to divulge his health records .... **Page 14**

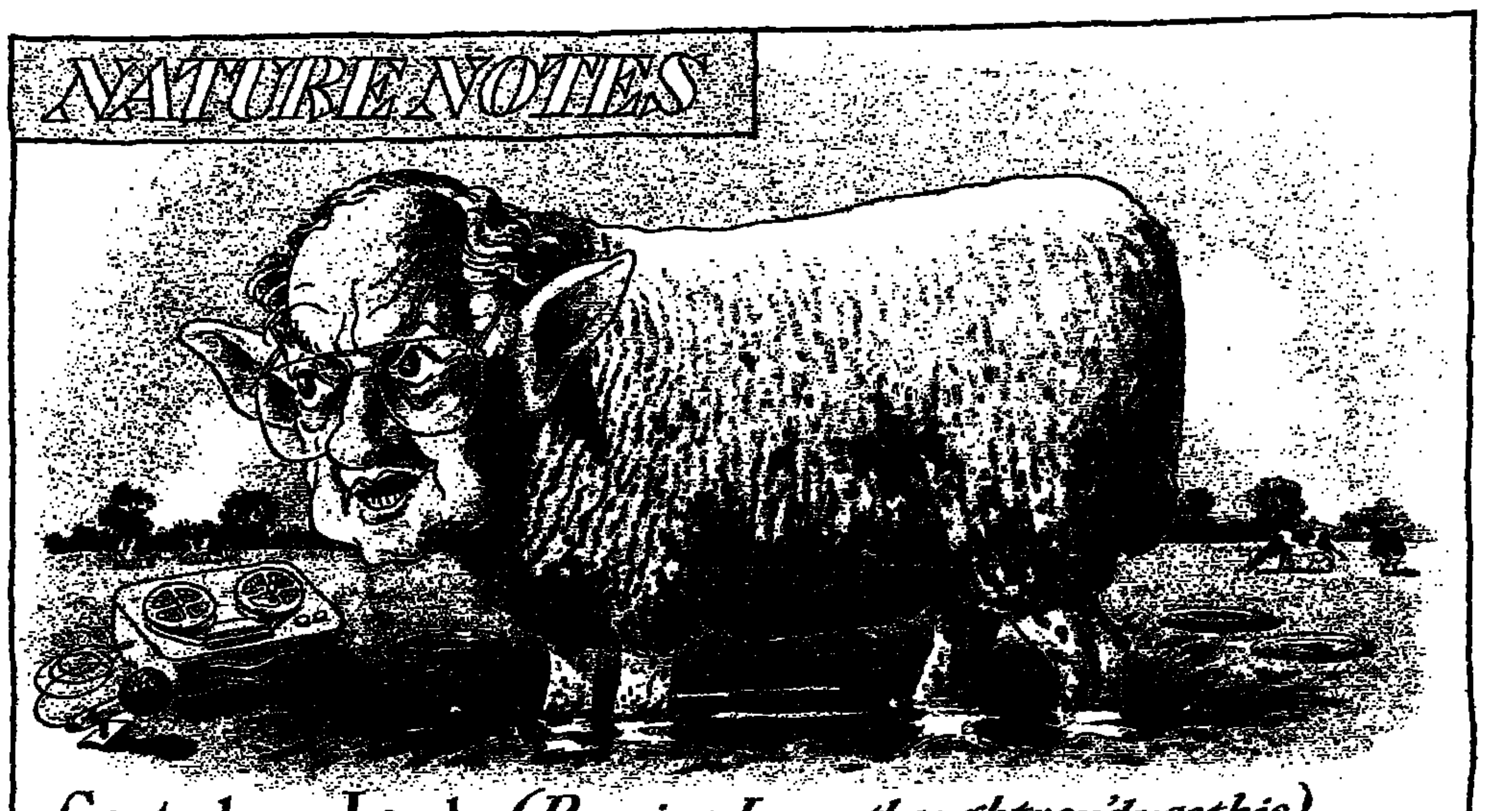
Asia spy rivalry

The "Great Game", in which the imperial powers vied for control of Central Asia, has resumed with a new cast of spies .... **Page 15**

Sporting widows develop game plan

■ Spanish football widows, neglected by their husbands for television, have formed an Association of Women Abandoned for Football. Their aim is to reclaim the household television set, and to bring their men to their senses .... **Page 16**

NATURE NOTES



Canterbury Lamb *(Runcius Ineverthoughtyoudusethis)*
Woolly breed which can stray from a position of trust. Will bleat incessantly when prompted.

OPINION

Let's fly a kite: Labour spokesmen have been addressing two audiences. But the more Labour muddles its message, the less trustworthy it appears........ **Page 21**

Life in Venice: Venice is sinking no more, thanks to an international effort which has stabilised the water table and restored much of its physical fabric........ **Page 21**

LETTERS

Doing business with Blair; London's skyline; smacking children; wild mushrooms; Lyceum Theatre........ **Page 21**

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: After *Middlemarch* comes *Emma*. What is to be her fate, torn from home and hearth and carried across the sea to Hollywood? .... **Page 20**

Brian Brivati: Mr Blair's political adventure has not been without precedent. He is following in the footsteps of Hugh Gaitskell **Page20**

OBITUARIES

James Gulliver, former chairman of Argyll Group; Joanne Dru, actress; Craig Donaldson, the Queen's Painter in Scotland .... **Page 23**

BUSINESS

Coke inquiry: The European Commission is to open an investigation into Coca-Cola Enterprises' purchase of Amalgamated Beverages Great Britain Ltd .... **Page 25**

Wembley: The operator of Britain's most famous sporting complex, made £7.7 million before tax .... **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100.Index rose 35.3 points to close at 3967.9. Sterling's trade-weighted index remained unchanged at 86.2 after a fall from $1.5551 to $1.5543 but a rise from DM2.3510 to DM2.3512 .... **Page 28**

SPORT

Cricket: Leicestershire completed a two-day rout of Durham to cement their county championship lead...**Page 48**

Rugby union: England's top players have risked ruling themselves out of internationals by taking sides against the RFU .... **Page 48**

Football: The turmoil at Arsenal increased after Stewart Houston, the caretaker-manager, resigned... **Page 48**

CAR 96

He failed his driving licence but Edward Redfern is Britain's fastest boy racer

ARTS

Open season: Old Masters and classical works of music are protected from destructive updating. Why are our theatre and opera classics not? .... **Page 17**

Operatic uplift: Jonathan Miller's musically wobbly new *Traviata* for the ENO gets an uplift from a well cast Violetta .... **Page 19**

Orchestral splendour: At the Proms; Daniel Barenboim conducts the Chicago Symphony in Schoenberg's *Five Pieces for Orchestra* and Bruckner's Eighth .... **Page 17**

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Friendly fire: War hero takes on RAF........ **Page 8**

Margaret Atwood: the author's brush with female evil........ **Page 14**

WEEKEND

Cigarette war: US drug vs French art........ **Page 1**

Books: Marcel Berlins on the life of Frederick West; also a new biography of Orson Welles........ **Page 12**

10 15

Film offer: A free ticket for *Emma* .... **Page 11**

Local hero: We meet Jason McAteer........ **Page 6**

VISION

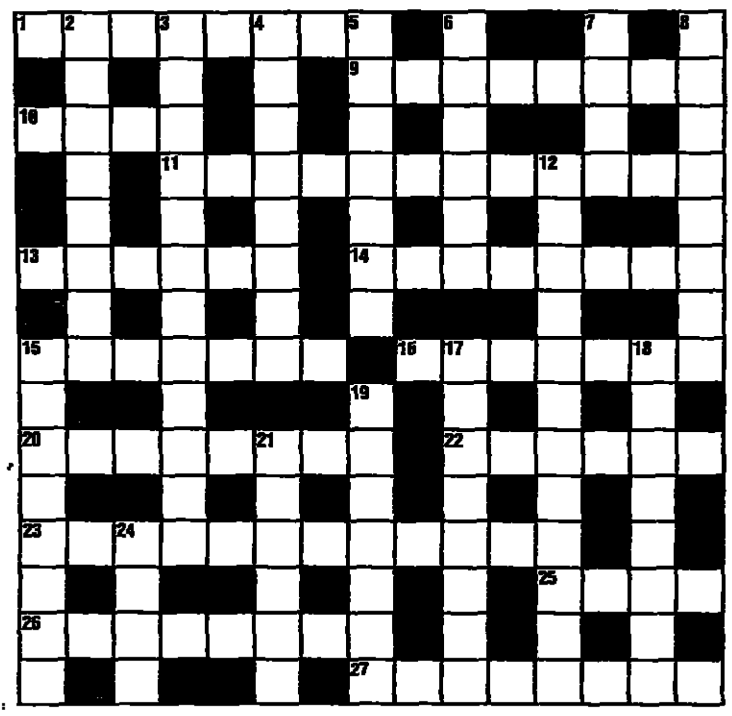
Friday: *Caroline in the City*, a new American comedy, Channel 4, 9pm; **Tomorrow:** *Rhodes* and empire, BBC1, 8.30pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,273

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



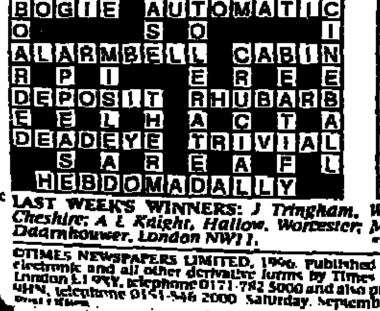
ACROSS

1 At some time, completed examination (4-4).
9 Sally aboard English vessel (3-5).
10 Jog, taking wrong turning (4).
11 Traveller's joy, having larks, etc. in Limerick (3,4,5).
13 Bear witness to possible whereabouts of cricket fan (6).
14 Study territory for bridge (8).
15 Jimmy is what Americans call this bird – a rail (7).
16 Hole for draining sink (7).
20 Charming girl embraced by expert (8).
22 Attempt to muffle independent's noise (6).
23 Lame, having marched with boots both out of shape (4,2,6).
25 I am a leader of Muslims (4).
26 Fool accepts worst old form of insulation (8).
27 Be successful, in effect (4,4).

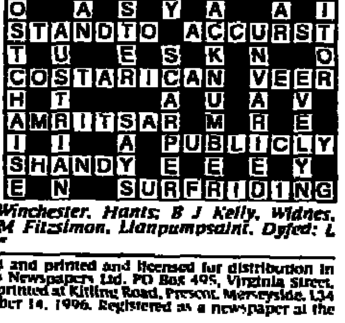
DOWN

2 Scottish island upset highland reporter (8).
3 Withdraw challenge – ultimately pay with weapons (3,4,5).
4 Surgeon attached to army brought about cessation of hostilities (8).
5 Story of Catholic church (7).
6 By the sound of it, cut back instruction (6).
7 Peruvian appearing in reincarnation (4).
8 Small boy seized by raptor – sort of eagle, perhaps (8).
12 Pig's litter – an assemblage that's very noisy (3-9).
15 Temporary accommodation given by accident to tramp (5,3).
17 Accountant disturbed about bad leader in financial journal (4-4).
18 The Spanish fish where the pickings are best (8).
19 Bravery more his style (7).
21 Suspicion produced when engineers are seen in city (6).
24 Vestment with primarily religious decoration (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,267



Solution to Puzzle No 20,272



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *J Tringham, Winchester, Hants; B J Kelly, Widnes, Cheshire; A L Knight, Hallow, Worcester; M Fitzsimon, Llanpumpsaint, Dyfed; L Daamhouwer, London NW11.*

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TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts, Gloucs, Avon, Soms	705
Berks, Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds, Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops, Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.34 am	7.17 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
7.48 pm	8.06 am

First quarter September 20

London 7.17 pm to 6.36 am
Bristol 7.27 pm to 6.45 am
Edinburgh 7.33 pm to 6.45 am
Manchester 7.27 pm to 6.43 am
Penzance 7.38 pm to 6.58 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
6.36 am	7.15 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
8.15 pm	9.13 am

First quarter September 20

London 7.15 pm to 6.37 am
Bristol 7.24 pm to 6.47 am
Edinburgh 7.30 pm to 6.47 am
Manchester 7.24 pm to 6.45 am
Penzance 7.35 pm to 7.00 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.27	6.9	2.40	6.9
Aberdeen	1.55	4.3	2.16	4.2
Avonmouth	7.56	12.7	8.10	12.8
Belfast	11.44	3.3	11.51	3.6
Cardiff	7.42	11.7	7.56	11.9
Devonport	6.29	5.3	6.43	5.4
Dover	11.43	6.6	11.56	6.5
Dublin (N Wall)	-	-	12.09	3.9
Falmouth	5.40	5.0	5.55	5.1
Greenock	0.57	3.4	1.36	3.2
Harwich	0.23	3.9	12.36	3.9
Holyhead	10.56	5.4	11.10	5.5
Hull (Albert D)	6.45	7.4	7.11	7.3
Ilfracombe	6.40	9.1	6.51	9.3
King's Lynn	6.51	6.4	7.08	6.5
Leith	3.07	5.5	3.26	5.5
Liverpool	-	-	12.00	9.0
Lowestoft	10.04	2.6	10.37	2.5
Margate	0.30	4.5	12.37	4.6
Milford Haven	6.49	6.8	7.01	6.9
Newquay	5.40	6.7	5.56	6.8
Oban	6.29	3.9	6.34	4.0
Penzance	5.16	5.3	5.29	5.4
Portland	7.33	2.0	7.45	2.1
Portsmouth	-	-	12.04	4.6
Shoreham	11.51	6.1	-	-
Southampton	11.23	4.5	11.38	4.5
Swansea	7.00	9.3	7.13	9.4
Tees	4.07	5.2	4.30	5.2
Walton-on-Naze	0.17	4.1	12.30	4.1

Crown copyright reserved. All tide times are GMT

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Penzance, Cornwall, 20C (68F); lowest day max: Fair Isle Shetland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Lowestoft Suffolk, 0.13in; highest sunshine: Cardiff, 12 hr.

FORECAST

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have some patchy mist from overnight which should lift in the morning. It will be another dry sunny day with just the chance of the odd light shower in East Anglia. Daytime temperatures will be around normal, with pockets of ground frost overnight.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be sunny and dry after early mist clears. The far north of Scotland, though, will be cloudy with occasional drizzle. Winds light, with a touch of frost in sheltered spots overnight.

☐ **London, SE, Cent S, E England, E Anglia, Channel Isles:** Any early mist clearing, then dry and sunny. Perhaps a light shower in the extreme east. Winds light, mainly northerly. Max 17C (63F).

☐ **Midlands, SW England, Wales:** Any early mist clearing, then dry and sunny. Winds light mainly southeasterly. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **NW, Cent N, NE England, Lake District, Isle of Man, England, Borders, SW Scotland, N Ireland:** Any early mist clearing, then dry and sunny. Winds light and variable. Max 16C, 61F.

☐ **Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, Argyll, NW Scotland:** Any early mist clearing, then dry and sunny. Perhaps a touch of overnight frost. Winds light northwesterly swinging southwesterly. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** Rather cloudy with occasional drizzle. Winds light to moderate, mainly northwesterly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Outlook:** Very little change. Overnight mist and local frost, light winds.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

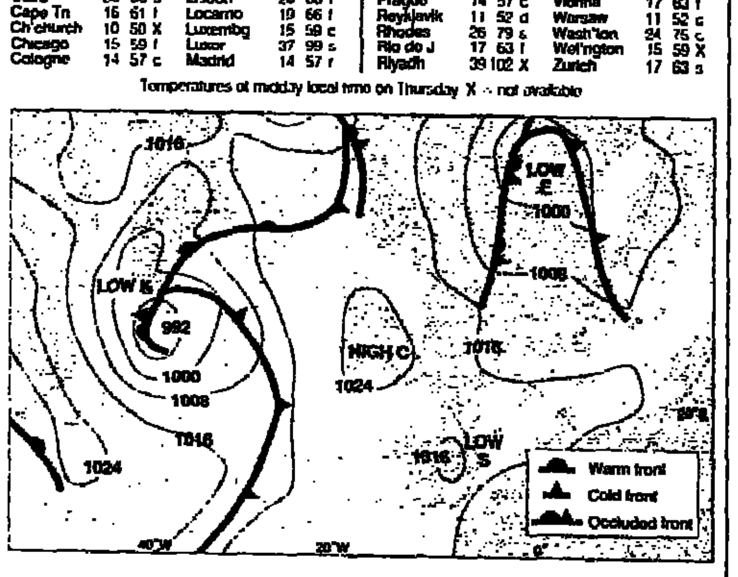
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	8.0	-	15	59	s	Leuchars	11.4	-	18	64	s
Anglesey	11.5	-	17	63	s	Littlehmptn	10.7	-	19	66	s
Aspatria	10.5	-	16	61	s	London	9.6	-	17	63	s
Aviemore	7.2	-	14	57	b	Lowestoft	7.0	0.13	15	59	sh
Belfast	11.5	-	17	63	s	Manchester	11.4	-	17	63	s
Birmingham	4.3	-	18	64	s	Margate	8.1	0.02	17	63	sh
Bognor R	10.9	-	18	64	s	Minehead	11.7	-	17	63	s
Bournem'th	11.1	-	19	66	s	Morecambe	11.1	-	16	61	s
Bristol	11.1	-	18	64	s	Newcastle	4.8	-	13	55	s
Buxton	8.2	-	14	57	s	Newquay	X				
Cardiff	12.1	-	17	63	s	Norwich	7.4	0.11	15	59	sh
Clacton	10.1	-	16	61	s	Oxford	9.7	-	17	63	s
Cleethorpes	X					Penzance	X	-	20	68	s
Colwyn Bay	X					Poole	10.4	-	18	64	s
Cromer	8.0	0.06	15	59	s	Prestatyn	X				
Dunbar	10.1	-	14	57	s	Ross-o-wye	9.9	-	19	66	s
Eastbourne	9.7	-	18	64	s	Ryde	10.7	-	17	63	s
Edinburgh	10.5	-	19	66	s	Salcombe	10.8	-	18	64	s
Eskdalemuir	10.5	-	17	63	s	Sandown	10.0	-	17	63	s
Exmouth	9.9	-	17	63	s	Saunton Snd	11.1	-	18	64	s
Falmouth	10.3	-	20	68	s	Scarboro'	6.1	0.02	14	57	b
Fishguard	11.9	-	15	59	s	Shanklin	11.1	-	X	X	s
Folkestone	10.7	0.01	18	64	s	Shrewsbury	10.1	-	16	61	s
Glasgow	11.8	-	18	64	s	Skegness	7.8	0.07	15	59	s
Guernsey	8.6	-	17	63	s	Southend	X	-	17	63	s
Hastings	9.8	-	18	64	s	Southport	9.7	-	15	59	s
Hayling I.	10.4	-	18	64	s	Southsea	9.1	-	18	64	s
Herne Bay	9.3	-	17	63	s	Stornoway	3.8	-	14	57	c
Hove	8.2	-	18	64	s	Swanage	11.0	-	19	66	s
Hunstanton	7.6	0.07	15	59	s	Teignmouth	10.5	-	18	64	s
Ilfracombe	X					Tenby	11.0	-	17	63	s
Isle of Man	11.7	-	15	59	s	Tiree	11.3	-	14	57	s
Jersey	11.1	-	17	63	s	Torquay	11.1	-	18	64	s
Kinloss	2.8	-	14	57	c	Ventnor	10.7	-	19	66	s
Leeds	8.5	-	16	61	s	West-s-mare	10.7	-	17	63	s
Lerwick	5.0	0.02	12	54	sh	Weymouth	11.3	-	19	66	s

ABROAD

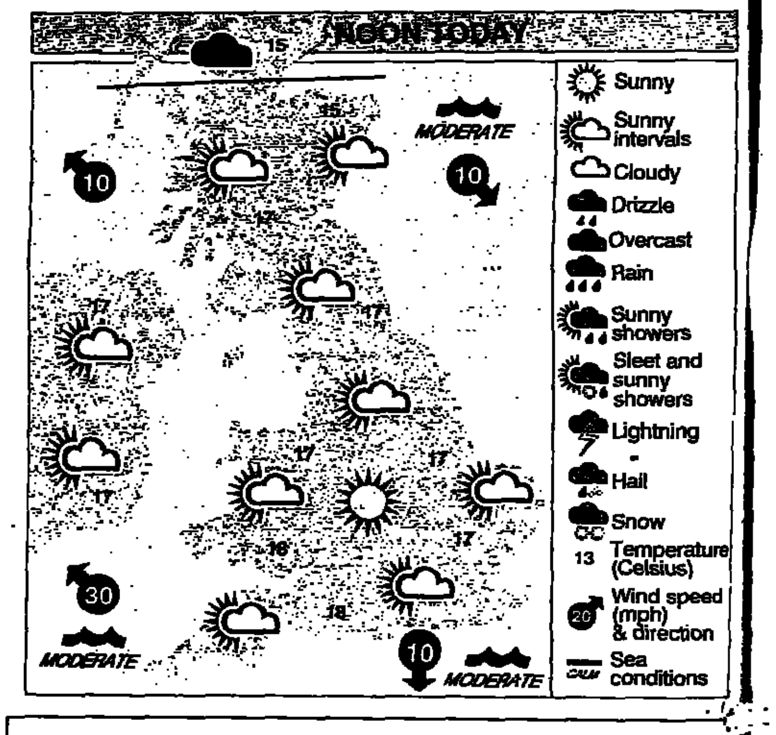
Ajaccio	27	81	s	Corfu	25	77	f	Majorca	21	70	r	Rome	24	75	f
Akrotiri	27	81	s	C'phagn	14	57	f	Malaga	18	64	r	S Fr'sco	18	64	f
Alex'dria	28	82	s	Dublin	15	59	f	Malta	29	84	f	S Paulo	19	66	c
Algiers	30	86	f	Dubrovnik	21	70	s	Melb'rne	15	59	f	Salzburg	13	55	c
Amst'dm	14	57	f	Faro	24	75	f	Mexico C	21	70	f	Santiago	14	57	f
Athens	27	81	s	Florence	26	79	s	Miami	30	86	s	Seoul	29	84	s
B Aires	23	73	s	Frankfurt	15	59	c	Milan	23	73	f	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	36	97	s	Funchal	24	75	s	Montreal	21	70	X	St'kholm	11	52	c
Bangkok	32	90	f	Genova	17	63	s	Moscow	8	46	c	Strasb'rg	16	61	c
Barbados	30	86	f	Gibraltar	18	64	f	Munich	14	57	s	Sydney	17	63	f
Barcelona	23	73	f	Helsinki	11	52	c	N Delhi	33	91	f	Tangier	21	70	f
Beirut	27	81	s	Hong K	31	88	c	N York	21	70	f	Tel Aviv	29	84	s
Belgrade	23	73	s	Innsbrck	17	63	s	Nairobi	24	75	f	Tenerife	27	81	c
Berlin	14	57	f	Istanbul	22	72	s	Naples	26	79	f	Tokyo	27	81	c
Bermuda	29	84	f	Jeddah	35	95	s	Nice	23	73	s	Toronto	22	72	c
Biarritz	X			Jo'burg	28	82	s	Oslo	11	52	f	Tunis	31	88	s
Bordo'x	22	72	s	L Angels	22	72	s	Paris	16	61	c	Valencia	17	63	r
Brussels	15	59	f	L Palmas	26	79	f	Peking	22	72	c	Vanc'ver	21	70	s
Budapest	18	64	f	Le Tquet	16	61	f	Perth	14	57	c	Venice	21	70	f
Cairo	30	86	s	Lisbon	20	68	f	Prague	14	57	c	Vienna	17	63	f
Cape Tn	16	61	f	Locarno	19	66	f	Reykjavik	11	52	d	Warsaw	11	52	c
Ch'church	10	50	X	Luxembg	15	59	c	Rhodes	26	79	s	Wash'ton	24	75	c
Chicago	15	59	f	Luxor	37	99	s	Rio de J	17	63	f	Wel'ngton	15	59	X
Cologne	14	57	c	Madrid	14	57	r	Riyadh	39	102	X	Zurich	17	63	s

Temperatures at midday local time on Thursday. X – not available



Changes to chart above: from noon high C will drift north with little change. Low S will lose its identity. Low K will move slowly east with little change. Low E will move east and deepen

NOON TODAY



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Are you healthy enough to drive on holiday?

Page 2

CAR 96

Wonderful racing round the streets of Denmark

Page 5

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 14 1996

Edward Redfern prepares to race at Silverstone. The track's experts think Edward is so good, they have entered him in the senior Formula Ford category. He has his first taste of the full Formula in a 1.8-Zetec single seater next Sunday

He's a young star, but he can't drive, says **Kevin Eason**

Boy racer's big test

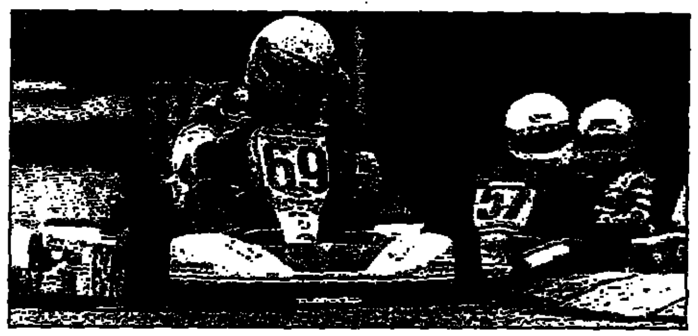
Edward Redfern is Britain's fastest boy racer. Next week, the 17-year-old will line up on the grid at Brands Hatch, elevated into competition against seniors because of his outstanding prowess on the track.

Five days later, Edward — holder of a race driver's licence, several times a winner and lap record holder — will attempt to conquer the one test he has so far failed in his fledgling career: he will try to get his driving licence.

For Edward might be hot stuff on the circuit, but he failed when it mattered at the steering wheel of a humble Ford Escort diesel. His examiner decided that the boy who has roared through the chequered flag four times this season was "too hesitant" and refused him a licence to drive on the roads.

The irony is not lost on a young man whose calm manner and good sense has turned him into a junior Damon Hill. "It's strange because I haven't been dumped at the start line all season. But I clearly wasn't decisive enough when I sat my test for the first time. Let's hope the second time goes a little better," he says.

Edward's racing progress is in the classic tradition of some of the world's top Formula One drivers, such as Michael Schumacher, Johnny Herbert, Mika Hakkinen and David Coulthard — all started in go-karts. Edward was at the wheel aged ten, sharing a kart with a chum down the road in Fleet, Hampshire. The competition was fierce — including one outing when the grid included two young men called William and Harry . . . as in Windsor.



His karting skill is in the classic grand prix drivers' tradition

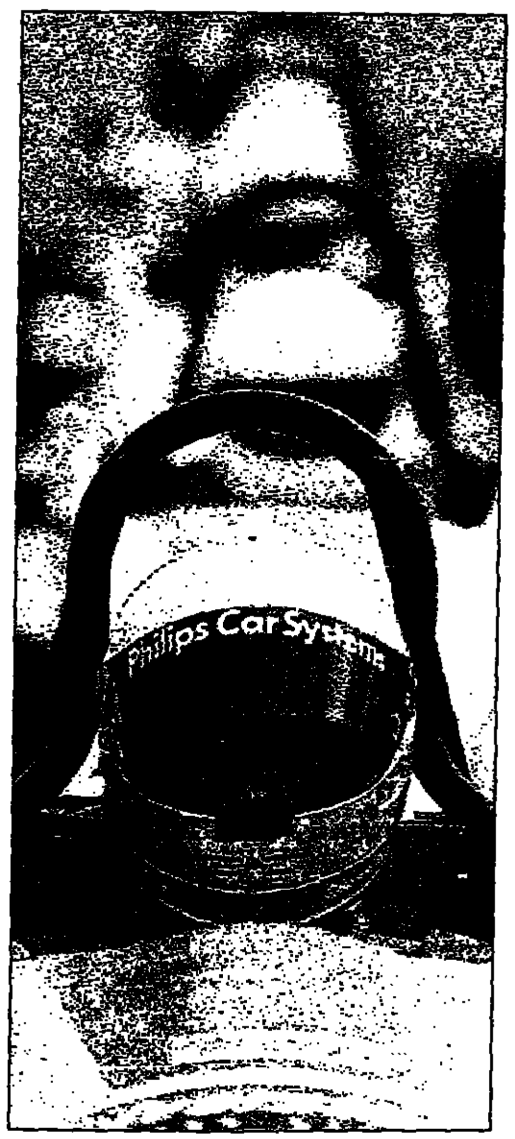
The princes were gifted karters, but Edward had already set his eyes on bigger things. As soon as he was 16, he cajoled his father, Derek, into a trip to the Silverstone Driving Centre, based at the famous Northamptonshire grand prix circuit, at the end of last season, to enter its Formula Ford championships. He only got a drive in the 1.6-litre single seater because a young American, coincidentally called Damon Hill, dropped out. Edward won. This season, with backing and tuition from the centre, he was on course to win the title, only needing a victory in the final race last Sunday at Silverstone.

After six laps he was leading but he was rammed by a Brazilian in second place. For a while, it seemed like a shattered dream but the shunt did not end in failure because Silverstone's experts decided Edward was so good, they would enter him in the senior Formula Ford category for next season. He gets his first sample of the full Formula in a more powerful 1.8-Zetec single seater at Brands, the Kent circuit, next Sunday.

Then, backed with sponsorship worth about £30,000 from Philips Car Systems and a Silverstone car, Edward will battle for the Formula Ford title next year, the first step in what could become a career in racing. Derek says: "It costs around £75,000 to run a car for a season, the sort of money we haven't got. We are just an ordinary family and so far we have had the backing from the Silverstone Driving Centre and Philips which has made all the difference. But the test for Edward comes now because he is only at the very bottom of racing. He is a sensible lad and knows there is a long way to go yet."

In between Brands Hatch and next season lies that driving test. Edward is geared up and ready to go, the nerves more shredded than if he were in his helmet and race overalls ready to screech around a hairpin bend.

"The technique is obviously different for racing and perhaps that was my problem last time," he says. "You can't really compare hitting the brakes at 130mph to get down to 40mph, at the same time heeling and toeing the clutch and brake pedal, with driving around town. You need discipline on the roads as much as on the track. I don't mind if I don't win next Sunday — but I really want to pass my driving test. Maybe I will have to work harder on that."



So close, but being rammed lost him a title

FORD'S NEW BABY

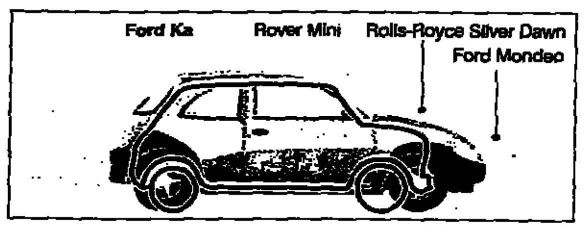
Ka: even the name is somewhat short

Ford has unveiled its new mini car — except that it's bigger than a Mini. The Ka, named after an Egyptian virility symbol, was announced this week as a revolutionary city car with a frugal engine and seats for four.

At 3,620 millimetres long, it is a tiddler against a Rolls-Royce, which is 5,268mm from Spirit of Ecstasy to rear bumper. Even Ford's own Mondeo mid-range model seems positively hefty by comparison, with a bumper-to-bumper length of 4,480mm. But the Ka, based on a Fiesta platform, is much bigger than true mini cars, a category really established in Britain 37 years ago by the definitive Mini when Sir Alec Issigonis packed an engine, boot and four people into a box just 10 feet (3,048mm) long.

Ford says that this time, size really doesn't matter because the Ka is so pretty, it will turn more heads than any other small car on the roads. Its futuristic packaging, with snazzy angled lamps against a smooth bubbled body, is aimed at drivers who want a model distinctively different and could have a significant impact on Ford sales if it is a success.

Ford needs to carve out a new sales niche when the Ka arrives in showrooms next month, because the company's factory at Valencia in Spain is geared up to make as many as 200,000 cars a year.



Ka launch review, page 3

One reason why Darren Bailes of Durham chose Orange

	Orange Talk 15	Vodafone PersonalWorld	Cellnet Regular Caller Plus
Minimum monthly charge to make 15 minutes of national peak rate calls	£17.63	£22.92	£22.92

orange

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High city accident rates are due to rotten signposting which distracts ill-equipped drivers for vital moments

Why lost giraffes would crash less

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard

nsurance companies may not win any popularity contests. *but they do produce some of the* most interesting surveys und. The latest one, from Eagle r, featured in *Car 96* last week, tained something of a mystery: y are some cities safer to drive in n others?

Part of the answer, in my opinion, that giraffes do not drive cars and r drivers do not have the faculties a giraffe. While you think about at, here is a reminder of what gle Star discovered.

The company divided the number *policy holders in each of 19 cities* the number of accidents they ported to produce a percentage sk. Birmingham came off worst at .1 per cent, Southampton best at .7 per cent. I think the fact that lasgow, Manchester and London gured among the five worst is a lue to why some cities are more angerous than others.

Although Eagle Star finds "no traightforward reason" for some ities being more dangerous than thers, I think a reasonable guess can be made, based on the ordinary experience of driving around cities.

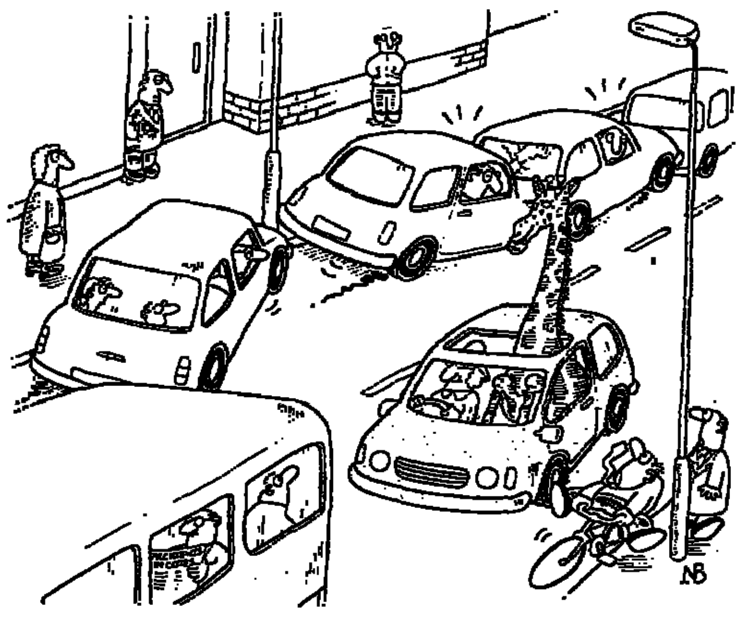
Most accidents happen within a few miles of home, which would suggest that being a stranger in a city is not the problem. But that conclusion could be wrong: the accidents in the survey may have *involved local people, but this does* not mean they were caused by locals.

I think that strangers to big cities cause accidents because they are constantly obliged to hunt around for obscure clues as to where they are. The search for a particular district, for example, is hampered by the fact that although the district may be signposted, there is often no indication when one has actually arrived in it.

And so to giraffes. These creatures are *ideally suited* to driving in unfamiliar cities, except where low bridges are involved. When it comes to craning the neck, the giraffe has no peer.

So a giraffe driving along the M4 and arriving at Chiswick has none of the problems encountered by the rest us in the search for, say, Enfield. First, the giraffe could reach out of the sunroof and eat the huge bush which has obscured a crucial sign at the first roundabout it encounters.

Thereafter, the giraffe's powers of vision would enable it to pick out each of the streets it needed much faster than the rest of us. Most of our street signs were put up by the Victorians, using dainty little oblongs of metal with dainty lettering.



Some street signs are impossible to read at any distance. Either somebody has painted "Happy 50th George" on them or a postbox has been cleverly placed right in front of *the sign. Most of the streets* I search for seem to have three youths lolling against the street sign. They appear to have been given my itinerary and told to dog my route.

All of this means that a stranger in Birmingham or London or Glasgow is an accident looking for somewhere to happen. This is why many of the *people driving in cities seem to* be deformed. Their chins are on top of the steering wheel, their heads are at right angles to their necks and their eyes, which have a frantic appearance, are locked in the top of their eye sockets.

They are searching, upwards, for a clue, any clue, as to where they *might* be. Suddenly . . . bang! They have run into the car in front. The car in front is stationary. Its driver is nowhere to be seen. Ah yes, there he is, holding an *A to Z* in front of a pedestrian who turns out to be a Belgian tourist.

I know, strangers are a damned nuisance. But we are all strangers somewhere at some time, so can we have larger direction signs, better street signs, more district signs? Surely that would be easier than teaching giraffes to read.

AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● *LONDON*

A13 Rainham; major reconstruction work on New Road at the Walden Avenue junction.

A100 Tower Bridge Road; contraflow for repairs to the railway bridge at the junction with Druid Street.

A121 Loughton; various restrictions on High Road at the junction with The Drive for widening work. Expect long delays in both directions.

A410 Harrow Weald; restrictions on Uxbridge Road at the junction with Boxtree Road for roadworks.

● **SOUTH EAST**

A404M *Cox Green*; road closed for bridge repairs. Diversions.

A249 West of Sittingbourne; dual *carriageway work* — expect regular delays.

A4130 Between Didcot and Wallingford; lane closures with temporary lights. Delays at peak periods.

M25 junctions 6-10; restrictions and lane closures.

A273 Hassocks; temporary lights controlling traffic on London Road.

● **SOUTH WEST**

M5 junctions 18-19; contraflow between the Avonmouth and Portbury junctions. 50mph speed restriction, regular peak-time delays.

A38 Gloucester; major roadworks at the Cole Avenue roundabout — regular delays.

A3027 Taunton; temporary lights on North Street will cause regular delays throughout the day in the town centre.

A419 between Swindon and Cirencester; various restrictions and speed limits between Latton and *Weavers bridge* for roadworks.

●**MIDLANDS & EAST ANGLIA**

A6 Lockington; contraflow from just north of the M1 junction 24 to Sawley Island (B6540) with no right turn for southbound traffic into Donnington Lane for bypass work.

A428 Crick; closed from its junction with the A5 for construction of a new carriageway and roundabout, with various other local restrictions in operation as part of the M1 (junction 18) link road works.

A500 Stoke on Trent; contraflow on The Queensway (known locally as the D-Road) from Talke to Porthill, with one lane open each way for just over one kilometre *as part of the continuing* work on the Tunstall bypass.

A38 Burton; major repairs underway between Branston and Barton with a *contraflow and diversions.*

A449 Kingswinford; Kidderminster Road closed at the Lodge Lane junction for roadworks with a signed *diversion in operation.*

● **NORTH**

M6 junctions 20-21A; restrictions as major widening work continues between the Lymm and Croft junctions near the Thelwall Viaduct with three lanes open in each direction and some slip *roads reduced* to a single lane.

A6 Stockport; Wellington Road South reduced to a single lane in both directions between Exchange *Street and Laurel Street.* Expect peak-time delays.

A57 Sheffield; contraflow in Sheffield City Centre near the Park Square roundabout.

A167M Newcastle; *roadworks* on the Central motorway between Jesmond Road and the New Bridge Street roundabout. Expect peak-time delays.

M1 junction 47; lane closures at the Leeds junction, with a 30mph speed rstriction in operation through the works.

● **WALES**

A550 Between Woodbank and Queensferry; traffic reduced to narrow lanes with a 40mph speed restriction. Expect delays at peak periods.

A4051 Newport; lane closures on Malpas *Road* between the M4 interchange at junction 26 and the Woodlands roundabout, with overnight *junction closures and* diversions. Expect peak time delays.

A472 Pontypool; contraflow between *Pontymoile and the Heron* roundabout for major roadworks. Lengthy delays, especially from the A4042.

M4 junctions 34-35; *contraflow in operation* between the Miskin and Pecoed junctions as major roadworks continue with a 50mph speed restriction.

● **SCOTLAND**

A92 Tay Road bridge; one lane closed southbound on Tay Road bridge for maintenance work.

M8 junction 15; traffic reduced to two lanes westbound as roadworks continue, with various restrictions in operation eastbound.

M73 junction 3; traffic reduced to a single lane in both directions at the Mollinsburn junction for *roadworks.*

A93 Perth; various restrictions on Glasgow Road for construction work with temporary lights controlling *traffic at times.*

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**

M1 Saintfield roundabout; carriageway restricted to two narrow lanes with the hard shoulder closed and a 50mph speed restriction in operation for bridge strengthening work.

A2 Carrickfergus; various restrictions in Larne Road at the junction with Rawbrae Road. Expect delays at peak periods.

A27 Craigavon; various restrictions in operation in Tandragee Road at the Shortts crossroads. Expect delays at peak times.

Your car's well, but are you?

Roadside checks reveal one in three may be unfit to drive, says

Brian Pedley

SUSANNAH BINNEY

Nurses check motorists' blood-sugar levels under the Devon and Cornwall police scheme. Too many drove for far too long without food or rest

Police inspector Ian Aspinall is haunted by the first fatal road accident that he dealt with, as a young probationer in the 1970s. "A chappie had a heart attack behind the wheel of his car," says the inspector, a senior traffic officer with Devon and Cornwall Police.

"He mounted a footpath in a busy shopping area and wiped out an entire family, including a baby." The inspector fiercely maintains that many drivers are potentially lethal to themselves, their passengers and other road users because of poor health.

A series of pioneering on-the-spot medical checks carried out on nearly 300 August bank-holiday motorists in the West country would appear to confirm his worst fears.

Almost a third of the drivers surveyed showed health problems that ranged from abnormal blood pressures to worryingly low blood-sugar levels brought on by travelling for too long without eating.

"Vehicles are better designed than ever. And people spend fortunes maintaining them," says the inspector. "But the one thing that they fail to maintain is themselves." The inspector developed the pilot scheme of MoT-style checks with his wife Christine, a nursing resource manager with Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust.

The couple believe that their holiday campaign, Fit to Drive — Arrive Alive, could be the model for police forces throughout the country to use all the year round.

Drivers arriving at Exeter Services on the M5 in Devon were met by a team of specialist nurses from Taunton's Musgrove Park Hospital. Volunteers were weighed, measured and given eyesight tests before being tested for lung function, blood pressure and blood-sugar levels.

The nurses were concerned, but not surprised, at what they found. One man, who was driving with his wife and *children, had* to be persuaded to go and eat breakfast for fear that he would collapse while driving at high speed. "After driving through the night without a meal, his blood sugar level was horrifyingly low," says Christine.

"We noticed him at seven in *the morning dashing into the* loo and going for a coffee. He thought he was just tired. But we warned him that he was at risk of crashing — so he got his wife and kids and they all had breakfast together.

"The worst case that we had was a 28-year-old lorry driver who had extremely high blood pressure. He had driven from Yorkshire to Plymouth and back to Yorkshire, and was on his way back up the motorway to Somerset. He went and had a rest and something to eat. But he needed a complete overhaul."

The biggest group of drivers were on long-haul trips of up to five hours — but only a handful had stopped for a break. Half a dozen drivers showed early symptoms of diabetes, reports Christine, while another small group carried asthma inhalers, but had no idea how to use them.

Of 16 drivers with abnormal weight, most were surprisingly not heavy enough. "We had one 21-year-old woman who was over six foot tall but who weighed just 8½ stone. She could well have not been eating properly and would have got tired much more quickly."

The Aspinalls have long been disturbed at the number of accidents where illness is the primary cause. Devon and Cornwall has seen 62 such crashes involving injury in one year alone. "They're just the ones that we've been able to quantify," says the inspector.

"But how many more accidents have occurred where the driver has not been fit or well? I believe that some police forces don't even record illness at the wheel.

"I've been to many accidents where you hear 'Oh he was perfectly healthy when he set out', where someone's had a heart attack and bang . . . they've gone down a verge.

"I drive a patrol car at over 100 mph in response to accidents. I've got to be fit. I've got to be healthy and alert. I can't afford not to be — and neither can anybody else."

Inspector Aspinall will continue to press for drivers' health to be given a higher profile in accident prevention campaigns. "We hope that we can use these findings to convince all interested bodies that there are real issues here.

"I remember, at 19 years old, seeing all that carnage. It shouldn't happen any more . . . but it still does."

DRIVE FIT, DRIVE SAFE

■ IT ISN'T just your car that needs *maintenance.* Don't wait to be ill behind the wheel. Have regular health checks.

■ ON LONG trips, it isn't just your car that needs refuelling. Plan your journey to include meal breaks.

■ IN WARM conditions, do not allow yourself to dehydrate while driving. Stop occasionally for a can of soft drink.

■ IF YOUR drive is part of your holiday, remember that the holiday starts from the moment you leave your front door — and not when you reach your destination. You should not feel under pressure to arrive by a particular time. Just relax.

The survey also found asthmatic drivers could not use their inhalers

Mum, dad, we hate your driving

The true terrors of the school run have been exposed by Britain's children, who have come up with their own safe-driving code after being asked what most annoys them about their parents' motoring habits.

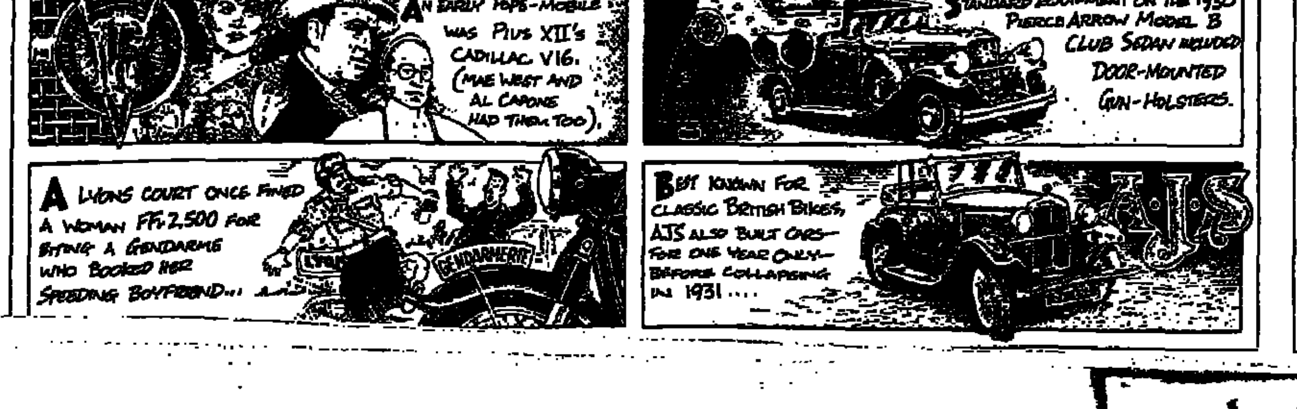
The most dangerous thing in the view of 700 *children* aged 7-14 *was* "putting on make-up, combing hair in the mirror and shaving while driving", clearly a reference to parents who leave things to the last minute in the morning. Not surprisingly, and perhaps pointed out by the younger section of the sample, the second most dangerous thing was said to be "turning round while driving to give someone in the back seat a smack or have a row".

The children were questioned by Kwik-Fit, the exhaust and tyre company, and their advice was turned into the 10-point code below, *which has been* welcomed by police chiefs and road safety campaigners.

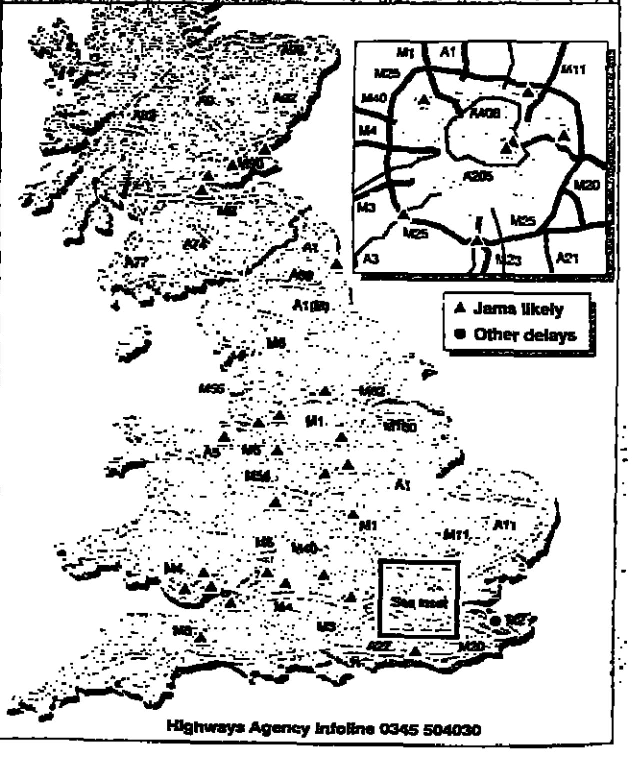
Peter Holmes, Kwik-Fit managing director said: "Children are extremely observant and increasingly safety conscious. We hope motorists will take these observations to heart."

1. Don't put on make-up, comb hair or shave.
2. Don't turn around to smack a passenger or row.
3. Don't look at accidents. Concentrate on driving.
4. Don't read a map or set of directions while driving.
5. Don't talk on a mobile phone or carphone.
6. Don't light a cigarette while driving.
7. Don't drink from a can while driving
8. Fasten seatbelts before starting the car.
9. Don't unwrap and eat sweets or snacks.
10. Don't change cassettes or discs while driving.

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans


AN EARLY POPE-MOBILE WAS PIUS XII's CADILLAC V16. (MAE WEST AND AL CAPONE HAD THEM TOO).
STANDARD EQUIPMENT ON THE 1930 PIERCE ARROW MODEL B CLUB SEDAN INCLUDED DOOR-MOUNTED GUN-HOLSTERS.
A LYONS COURT ONCE FINED A WOMAN FFr2,500 FOR BITING A GENDARME WHO BOOKED HER SPEEDING BOYFRIEND...
GENDARMERIE
BEST KNOWN FOR CLASSIC BRITISH BIKES, AJS ALSO BUILT CARS — FOR ONE YEAR ONLY — BEFORE COLLAPSING IN 1931....
AJS

MAJOR ROADWORKS



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NEWS IN BRIEF

Argent car fans

SILVER is growing fast as a popular car colour, reflecting the return of the "feelgood factor", according to PHH Vehicle Management Services. PHH says red and blue cars account for 25 per cent each of the total, but silver is growing fastest, up 150 per cent on last year. A colour psychologist *claims silver* is associated with drivers who enjoy their status.

Costlier quattros

AUDI prices are up by an average 1.75 per cent. The newly launched A3 coupé is unaffected, which means the range starts at £13,795 for an A3 1.6 and tops out at £53,803 for the A8 4.2 quattro Sport. The cabriolet range gains a new 2.8 version, good for 174bhp and 136*mph. Price* £29,995.

Minors go for Minis

More British drivers had Minis as their first car than any other. Touchline, the insurance company, asked 500 motorists what the first car in their lives was, and a fifth said it was the little Mini. Second was Ford's Fiesta, then the Escort.

His other car is . . .

SOMEONE clearly found the BBC chequebook to pay Jeremy Clarkson, billed as Britain's most talked-about motoring journalist. He has invested in a new car. But not for him the Mini, a humble Escort or trundling Skoda: friends say that the BBC2 *Top Gear* presenter, famous for his opinionated road tests, has bought himself a Ferrari F355, all £92,000 worth, to sit in the drive alongside his beloved Jaguar and Volvo.

هكذا من الأصل

مركز الاهرام

It's a radical new future

The Ka: not for people in grey suits

Tamara Beckwith, now she would look just great in one, but she already owns a Jeep. Sharron Davies looked a bit too tall for its dimensions, but Kyran Bracken was the right height, though his lime-green shirt would probably clash with the paintwork, *writes Kevin Eason*.

I went to see the car — in fact, the Ka — and ended up playing spot-the-celebrity. Ten minutes in, I was wishing I spent more time in front of the television because I couldn't put a face to a name, except to register that there were more beautiful women crammed into one restaurant in one lunchtime than I reasonably get to see in a year.

You see, Ford decided that the Ka is not just a Ka — sorry — car. It is a statement of style for the Nineties, a vehicle for people with an "attitudinal mindset", according to Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain's chairman.

If the invitation had explained this, the grey suit would have been back in the wardrobe. As it was, I was standing there clutching my champagne glass looking more like an accountant than style guru. Maybe Ford thought some style would rub off on me if I stood long enough in the shadow of the beautiful people.

No chance. I would have loved to ask Ms Davies, athletic but languid presenter of Channel 4's *Big Breakfast*, about her attitudinal mindset but she was busy having her picture taken. Ms Beckwith — a stunning blonde apparition apparently famous without any ostensible reason, except that she is tantalisingly wealthy, deeply gorgeous and what we journalists call a "wild child" — looked unapproachable.

All I had to offer was a grey suit, an overdraft and an attitudinal mindset, so I gave her a body swerve and scoured the celebrity guest list for someone a little less glamorous to chat to. That shirt on Bracken, rugby union scrum half and all-round cutie pie, was too intimidating. Katrina Skepper perhaps, except I had no idea who she was. Or Sarah Cracknell? Umm, still clueless on the identity front. Ha! One I knew: Boy George! On second thoughts.

Why was I here? I am a humble hack. I need a press release and a pint of Guinness, not style. Then came a shock. Buried deep among the crowds packed into Mezzo's, the ultra chic Conran restaurant in London's Soho, was the Ka. Low, curvy, colourful — a sight for eyes sagging under the bombardment of human pulchritude.

No wonder Ford was making a fuss. The car, as in Ka, has the curved silhouette of a Beckwith eyebrow, the angular leanness of a Sharron Davies, the squat, muscular stance of Bracken at the back of a ruck. For once, a carmaker actually made something which looks exciting. Fritz Mayhew, Ford's obviously brave design director, let the youngest members of his team loose on ideas for a tiny city car; more surprisingly, he liked what they came up with.

Two years after Mayhew's approval, it will be in British showrooms — probably priced about £7,500 — the smallest Ford since the Model T and the first of the next generation cars that buyers might choose just because they want one, not because they need one. As much a fashion accessory as a handbag, says Mayhew.

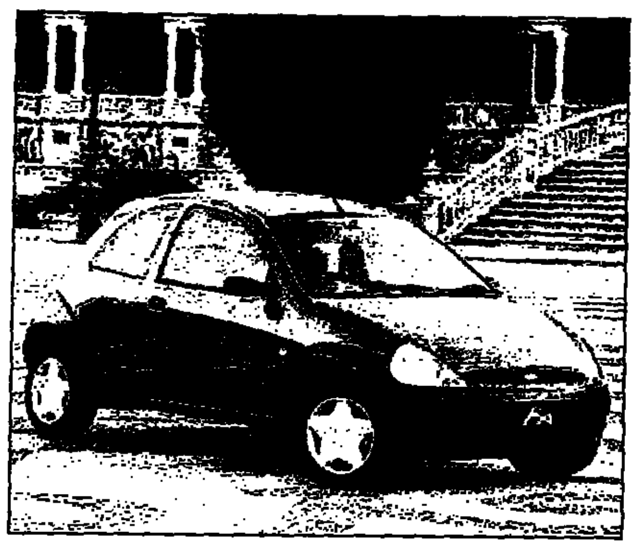
Ka is not actually that small: nearly two feet longer than a Mini though eight inches shorter than the Fiesta it is based on. There is no technological leap forward either, the power coming from an existing 1.3-litre four-cylinder engine and five-speed gearbox, so top speed is only just over 90mph. Fuel consumption could average 48 miles to the gallon of unleaded, and the car has a tight turning circle — two features which should appeal to motoring commuters.

There is, however, a revolution in the showroom: forget all that agonising over all the engine sizes, model designations, options and extras; Ka has one engine, one interior, ten colours and two models — Ka and Ka2, which gets power steering, central locking and a posher stereo. Anything else you want, you have to order. No reason why you should though, because Ka comes with the features you need, from a security system to a radio-cassette as good as any.

What you do get as standard is style; great curved lumps of it so cute that Ka will overnight make most other small cars look as conservative as one of John Major's ties.

Just one problem though — that name. Mayhew says everybody likes it and Ka makes a nice graphic image. But how do you say it? Ka, with a vowel sound as in apple or bath (for those of us born on the right side of Watford Gap), or Ka as in bar or . . . well, car.

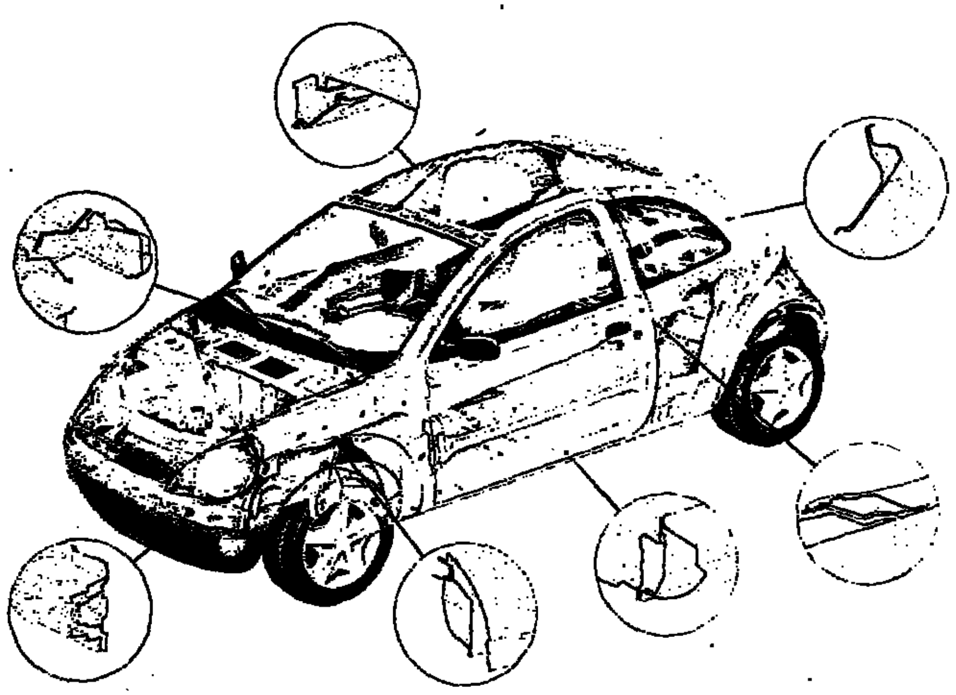
Who cares? When the car looks that sweet, it ceases to be an issue. Anyway, Tamara doesn't care because she has too much style to worry about tiddly little things like that. So if I don't care, does that mean I got style too? Maybe not. Back to the grey suit.


Ford has taken a brave step with a radical design

FORD KA

Engine: Four-cylinder 1.3 litre Endura-E (60PS) through five-speed manual gearbox, driving front wheels.
Dimensions: three-door car; length 3620 millimetres; width 1631mm; wheelbase 2448mm. Boot-space 186 litres, 205 with rear seats folded.
Performance: 0 to 60mph in 13.8 seconds (14.3 for power-steering version), top speed 96mph, fuel consumption: 47.9mpg average (42.2mpg power-steering version).
Equipment: driver's airbag, seatbelt grabbers, height-adjustable seatbelts, tailgate wash-wipe, tinted glass, engine immobiliser, lights-on warning buzzer. Options include power steering and compact disc player.
Price: to be announced October, probably £7,500.

The makers see their new mini as the first of a generation of cars that buyers might choose as a fashion accessory


Feisty Fiesta: the Ka's chassis is strengthened at key points to absorb crash impact, with beefier side-impact bars, engine compartment spars, cabin bulkhead and pillars. Airbags are larger and the seatbelts and engine mounts modified

SAFETY

Putting muscle on Ford' new bab

One problem with sr cars is that there is enough room to crash. ' structure under the bon has to absorb the impact the less front, the less cru ple-zone — a problem F faced with the Ka, wri *Michael Scarlett*.

Ka might look small bu weighs only a little less th the Fiesta. Making it as safe a crash as the longer Fie means it had to be streng ened carefully. Surviving bad head-on collision c pends on the cabin remaini intact and the nose of the c crushing in a controlled, pr gressive way to reduce tl huge impact force.

But in front-engined ca the engine and gearbox for a solid, relatively uncrushab lump. So the longer the no structure the better; shorte ing the bonnet length, as K does out of a standard Fies structure, creates problems.

Ka has only one choice c engine because fitting larger one would take up vita crush length, already reduce to only 7.9 inches, rough half as much as in the Fiesta.

The front cross membe above the radiator is change to help absorb crash energy. So are the side members running each side of the engine compartment. The structure connecting them to each windscreen pillar is much stronger so that crash force is resisted by the pillars. The bulkhead between the engine and cabin is strengthened to prevent the instrument panel moving too far backwards in a crash.

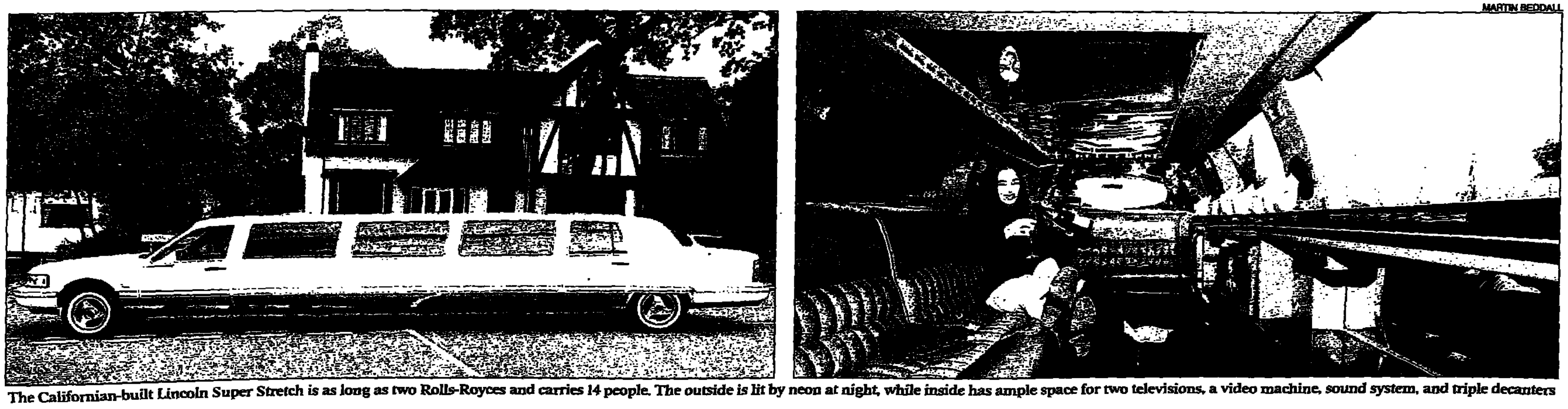
In a full-frontal crash, modified engine-carrying mounts allow the engine and transmission to move backwards as much as possible unimpeded. But in a partial collision, corner to corner, a mount breaks to allow the engine to swing out of the way.

It's doors, ½in longer than the three-door Fiesta, are strengthened to help resist side impact. To help the cabin resist crushing, the centre tunnel in the floor is stiffened with extra bracing. The middle roof pillars are also made stronger and there are changes at the back of the car to improve rear impact absorption. The standard equipment driver's air bag is 50 per cent larger and the optional passenger bag is longer, because the passenger sits further back. There are no seat belt tensioners. Seat belts are allowed to stretch 40 per cent more than in the Fiesta.

Ford claims these changes make Ka at least as safe in crash absorption as the Fiesta and the best of the Fiesta's rivals — no mean achievement in such a shortened car.

The long, long drive that Joe Average just loves to take

MARTIN BEDDALL


The Californian-built Lincoln Super Stretch is as long as two Rolls-Royces and carries 14 people. The outside is lit by neon at night, while inside has ample space for two televisions, a video machine, sound system, and triple decanters

Jennai Cox tries a stretch in Britain's biggest hire limousine and finds that it's not just celebrities who go for the luxury life

Driving it is like trying to park the Queen Mary in a duckpond: 35ft of long, long, limousine was not built for the sidestreets and tricky short cuts of British towns and cities. When Ian Berne drives what is thought to be the longest car in the country, he has to plan ahead to avoid corners simply too tight for a machine the length of two Rolls-Royces.

Berne, runs a family private car-hire company and decided the Californian-made vehicle — which can carry 14 — would promote a new fashion: limo-lounging.

After giving up classic car sales during the recession, Berne turned to mini-cabbing and noticed a rise in the number and size of the limos cruising London's streets. "It used to be quite rare to see them," he says. "But more and more people seemed to want to travel in style, so I decided to buy one." That was just the start, and by the time that his fourth stretch limo was due for replacement, an importer told him of the Lincoln Super Stretch.

"I went to have a look, liked what I saw, we talked money and I bought it," recalls Berne. "It was completely spur-of-the-moment and I can still hardly believe it."

The one-off custom made V8-engined car is barely a year old. The interior has ample space for two televisions, a video machine, sound system, triple decanter, 16 champage flutes and dozens of whisky tumblers — as well as enough space for a football team, their manager and two substitutes.

The designers might have had lovers of luxury in mind but clearly they did not worry about tight British corners. Getting out of Berne's driveway involved a three-point turn, incorporating part of the pavement and holding up half a dozen other vehicles. Drivers carrying more than eight passengers should hold Public Service Vehicle licences, and without experience in heavy goods vehicles this elegant white monster would be as hard to handle as a truck.

Cruising wide, traffic-free roads is just like being in any other car, until you look back and realise the boot is several steps away and binoculars might be needed to see out of the rear window. Roundabouts did not present any problems, not the large ones anyway, but mini-roundabouts have to be virtually ignored, while turning into anything even resembling a tight corner means hijacking the entire road.

But the car's tunable suspension makes travelling in the Super Stretch feel more comfortable on the road than it looks. Yes, it is guaranteed to attract attention: Berne has seen taxis driven onto central reservations by cabbies distracted by a car which appears and then goes on and on and on.

Still there is that

to negotiate the narrower reaches of Britain's streets.

"We can take people into town, but not down any side-roads; Regent Street and Oxford Street are fine," he says. He is happy to take customers anywhere at anytime for anything, but usually has to plan the route. "Obviously there are roads you simply cannot get down in this car," he says. "And we would not try."

Valued at between £80,000 and £100,000, with insurance costing around £2,000-a-year it is easy to understand why — a scrape down the side of this car could wipe out

In its first few weeks of life, the 4½ tonne right-hand-drive car has carried a number of wedding parties and anniversary couples. "Some do like to get quite amorous at the back," Berne says, demonstrating the visor which cuts driver off from all sights and sounds in the gigantic passenger compartment. "All we ask is that they keep the limo tidy."

Americans are renowned for their love of the biggest, the best and the most luxurious, but will Brits be comfortable putting their feet up in the back of a car which may be similar in size to their living room?

"Ninety per cent of our business is Joe Public," Berne says. "Everyone likes glamour

a film star for a night. When I'm asked who's in the back people often don't believe it when I say no one famous."

Business is mainly at night, for between £75 and £100 per hour plus VAT. That includes intercom access to the driver and the fibre-optic ceiling lights which change from yellow, to blue, to purple, to pink. The exterior is also covered in neon lighting. "It looks spectacular at night. If you want to be seen in town, this is the car to do it in," Berne says.

With seating room to lie back comfortably, gaze out of the one-way windows and sip champagne, it is hard to imagine a more desireable way to travel.

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95N Audi S6 Auto Estate 96Mod Ruby Red, Platinum Leather Seats, Climate, Cruise, Elec Seats, R/Locking, P/S/Roof, Thru Load Walnut, R/Blind, 5000 Alarm, 10CD + Amplifiers, Avus A/W, 8,600mls ——— £POA
95N Audi A6 2.8 Auto Ragusa Green, Anthracite Velour, Climate Control, E/F/Seat Pack, P/S/Roof, ABS, Airbags, Walnut, Heated Seats, Twin Pane Glass, 10CD, Alarm, A/W, 9,800mls ——— £POA
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95M A4 QUATTRO SALOON, Pearl Blue, 9,000 miles, Leather, Walnut, Alloys
93L S2 ESTATE, Black, 36,000 miles, Air Conditioning
94L 100 SE ESTATE, Volcano Black, Automatic, Leather Upholstery, 15,000 miles
95M 2.6 E CABRIOLET, [illegible] Blue, Automatic, Alloys, FSH, 9,000 miles
95M A4 1.8 SE, Ragusa Green, Auto, 3,000 miles, Climate Control
95M A4 2.8 QUATTRO SPORT, Emerald Green, 4,000 miles, Demo
95M A6 2.5 TDI SE ESTATE (140 Bhp), 10,000 miles, Amazon Green
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95M A6 2.8 SE AUTO SALOON, Emerald Green, 5,000 miles, Walnut, Alloys, ABS, Airbag, CDL
95M A4 1.8 SE, Laser Red, 11,000 miles, Climate Control, Alloys, ABS, PAS
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96N 2.6 Auto Cabriolet, Aluminium, P/Hood, Lthr, Sports Alloys, Walnut ——— £POA
95M 2.6 5-Speed Cabriolet, [illegible], P/Hood, Lthr, Walnut, H/Wash ——— £22,995
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94L 2.3 5-Speed Cabriolet, Laser Red, Fog Lamps, Alloys, ABS ——— £20,995
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95L S2 6-Speed Estate, Amethyst, Lthr, Air Con, H/Wash, Walnut, CD ——— £23,995
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95N A4 2.6 SE Sport, Silver, Leather, Climate, 17" Alloys ——— £23,995
95M 80 2.6 SE 5-Speed Estate, Green, R/Rails, Air Con, Alloys, Alarm ——— £15,495
95M 80 1.6 SE 5-Speed Estate, Indigo Blue, Alloys, S/Roof, S/Seats, R/Rails ——— £14,995
95N A4 TDI Auto, Laser Red, Sunroof, ABS ——— £17,995
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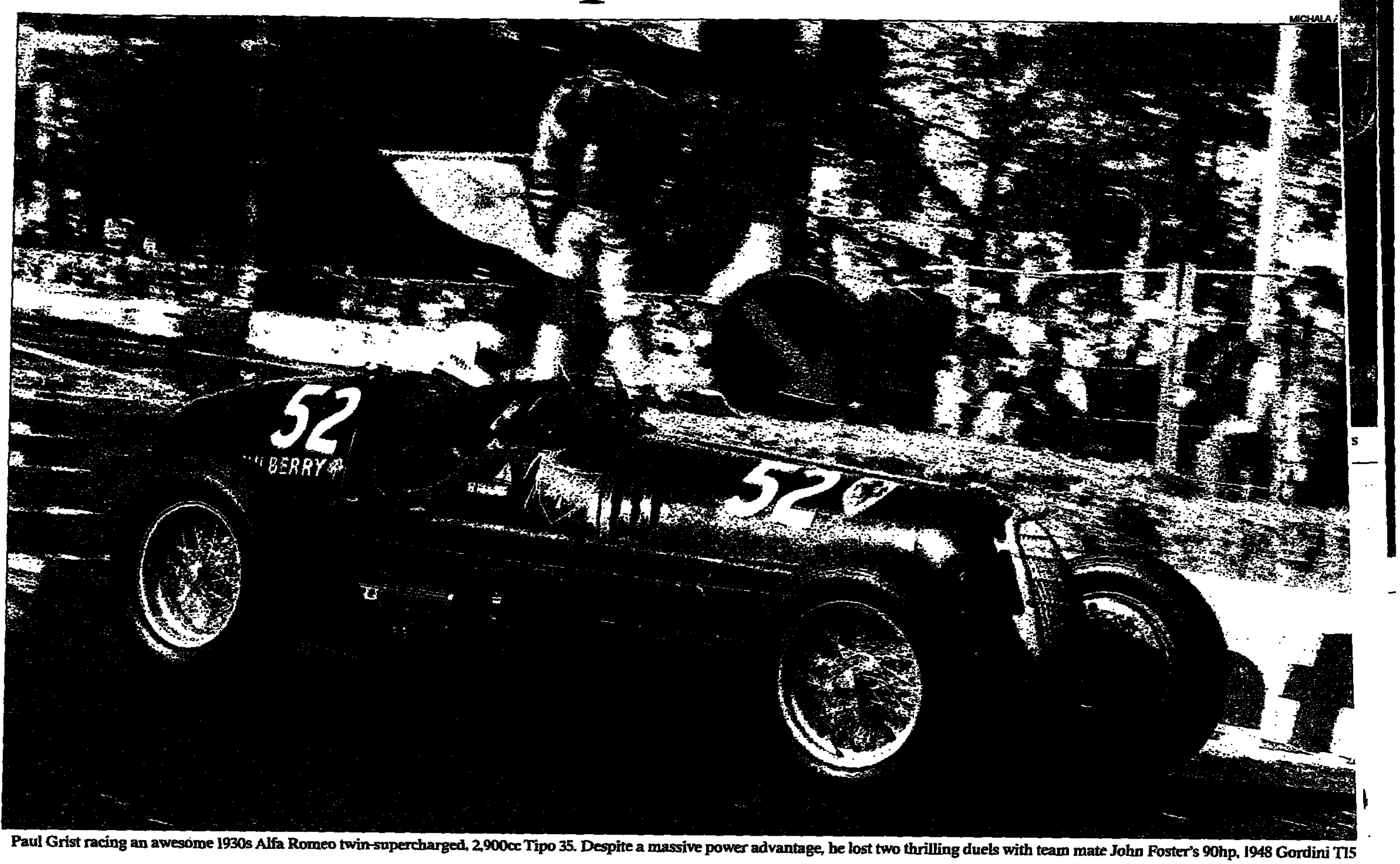

Paul Grist racing an awesome 1930s Alfa Romeo twin-supercharged, 2,900cc Tipo 35. Despite a massive power advantage, he lost two thrilling duels with team mate John Foster's 90hp, 1948 Gordini T15

For the first time in decades, the streets of a major European capital echoed to the roar of racing cars last Sunday as Copenhagen staged the Classic Car Cup event.

In an occasion reminiscent of the great races held in cities like Paris between the wars, Alfa Romeos, Bentleys and MGs battled for supremacy on a tight circuit above the canals and in front of the parliament building .

More modern Jaguars, Porsches and Ferraris competed in later classes, while elegant American sedans joined in the event which was held only after concerted lobbying by car enthusiasts, politicians and even Denmark's crown prince.

Their success in persuading the city fathers to agree to close the streets for the weekend was . surprising, given the country's lack of motor racing tradition. Denmark is not on the grand prix circuit, is not renowned for famous drivers and boasts only one modest track at Roskilde.

"The achievement was remarkable when you remember that this is an ultra-conservative country but also very green," said John Foster, one of the most successful competitors. "Imagine the protests which would greet any proposal to close the streets around Piccadilly Circus in London for a motor race."

In Copenhagen last weekend there were no protests, only some vandalism which saw a group of youths set fire to straw bales surrounding the circuit on Friday night. The course was later fenced off for the races and the 6,000 tickets sold out quickly.

The event was well supported by the British, with a successful team entered by the Mulberry design company. Two of its members, Foster and Paul Grist, produced the best racing of the day while Roger Saul, the team leader and Mulberry founder, took third place in his class despite little time to practice in an unfamiliar Jaguar D type.

The cars driven by Foster and Grist reflected the charm of the event. Foster was in a 1948 Gordini T15, driven by Juan Fangio to win his first European race and one of the smallest grand prix cars built; Grist was at the wheel of an awesome Alfa Romeo eight-cylinder twin-supercharged Tipo 35, built in the late 1930s to combat the emerging might of Mercedes and Auto Union.

The 90hp Gordini appeared to have no chance against the 2900cc Alfa but the tight circuit gave the little blue racer an advantage and it started its class in pole position with the Alfa just behind. Foster held on to his position throughout the first race but Grist made a flying start in the second and squeezed inside the Gordini on the first bend.

"I was surprised but not worried," Foster said later. "I kept on his tail and as we started to lap other entrants, I saw my chance. As we came to the hairpin, Paul had to decide whether to follow the car in front round the corner or to head me off by taking the inside route. He went inside but the Alfa was too big and hit the hay bales on the far side of the bend."

Foster went on to win, but Grist reversed out and recovered to take second place. "I was proud of their performance and delighted by the excitement they gave the crowd," said Saul, who had hand-picked the two men to join the Mulberry team. Foster, a farmer-cum-entrepreneur from Fife, is well-known on the classic car circuit and Grist, a former television actor, now runs the Traction Seabert classic car restoration business in Hertfordshire.

The most spectacular sound of the day came from another Briton. The crackling roar from Barry Foster's 1931 MG Monthlery C Compressor let everyone at the track know how successfully he was performing. He drove the 65-year-old racer spectacularly but had to settle for second place behind Jan Unneberg's 1934 MG N-Special Magnette.

"The sound from the four-cylinder engine was first described in the Thirties as like tearing calico," said Foster. His friend and fellow enthusiast, Hamish McNinch, fared less well in the same race as the half-shaft on his 1935 MG PA sheared.

As soon as the car had been towed back into the paddock, the two men got up to their elbows in grease to strip the MG and replace the damaged part. They worked so speedily that the car was back for the final parade and the two men were also able to appear spotless at the prize-giving dinner in the Royal Armoury.

There, the Mulberry team and Barry Foster were joined by other successful Britons, including Grahame Bryant who won a 1960s class in his AC Cobra.

CULTURAL RACE

THE CLINCHING factor in persuading the authorities in Copenhagen to stage the Classic Car Cup in the city centre proved to be the city's nomination this year as Cultural Capital of Europe.

"I was able to convince them that the motor car is just as important to our heritage as the arts and crafts featured in other events," said Ole Sommer, the organiser and Denmark's leading classic car enthusiast.

Restoration programmes, environmental initiatives and the opening of a modern art museum have marked the year, but for many the car cup was the centrepiece.

Sommer's success in arranging it, however, was not matched on the track. He led a 1950s race from the start in his Jaguar D type but ran out of fuel on the penultimate lap.

Skoda's winning crossbreed

Vaughan Freeman tries Europe's new bargain blend

It's only half Czech, but will the badge deter buyers?

If you like grey, you'll love the new Skoda. The entire grey spectrum, from thundercloud to charcoal, through pearl, frost, lead, smoke, salt and fluffy cloud, is explored on the interior of the all-new Skoda Octavia.

Which is a shame, because that might be enough to deter non-grey fans from a car that in most other respects sparkles, especially in the critical value-for-money equation. For this is basically a VW or Audi for a fraction of the cost.

Take a dash of trend-setting VW Golf, add a sprinkling of upmarket Audi A3, and garnish with a touch of sensible Seat Toledo, and the result, under a Czech-designed but very European smooth and curvy five-door hatchback shape, is the Octavia.

The car draws on parts from across the VW automotive empire. VW have pumped £3 billion into Skoda since taking control, and £800 million of that has gone on the brand new Octavia factory outside Prague. The result is a car that draws deeply on VW's standards for engineering quality, while taking a wide detour around the German firm's usual pricing policies.

Taking suspension, exhaust systems, engines and cabin section from the VW Golf, Audi and Seat cars, the Octavia is more than 50 per cent Golf/Audi/Seat. But while the Golf five-door is priced at up to £20,000, and the Seat Toledo from £12,000 to £17,300, the Octavia will cost from £10,500 to £15,000 at today's prices.

SKODA OCTAVIA SLX

Model: Skoda Octavia SLX five-door hatchback saloon.

Engine: 1.8 litre 20 valve four-cylinder petrol, giving 125bhp at 6000rpm through the front wheels with five speed manual gearbox.

Performance: 0-62mph in 10.9 seconds with a top speed of 125mph.

Economy: 23.2mpg in town, 43.5mpg out of town, 32.8mpg average.

Equipment: Dual front airbags, front and rear electric windows, power steering, power glass sunroof, coordinated retractable seatbelt systems, cargo area cover, aluminium alloy wheels, optional air conditioning.

Price: £15,000

Skoda's aim is to do for value-conscious drivers what the Beetle-only VW firm did for them 30 years ago, and to supply excellently engineered but budget-conscious cars.

The Octavia, a Mondeo-sized five-door saloon and estate, will compete with low-price cars from Daewoo, Proton, and Hyundai, as well as the Neon from Chrysler and the Mitsubishi Carisma.

Skoda UK managing director Dermot Kelly explains: "The car will be priced to compete with the Koreans, but will have the handling, ride and quality of German car technology. If Ford and Vauxhall are the Tesco and Sainsburys of the car world, then we are the Spar."

While maintaining their commitment to low prices, Skoda has been working to bury its joke status, helped by customer satisfaction surveys from Skoda Felicia owners that for the past two years have made Skoda the highest-rated European brand.

The Octavia can only help Skoda's regeneration. It brings with it Skoda's first 20-valve engine (taken from Audi), their first turbo-diesel (usually seen in the Golf), and the first Skoda automatic. All models feature power steering and the Octavia will be the first car in its class to be fitted with side airbags for extra passenger protection.

Headroom and legroom in the front are ample for even those over 6ft 4ins, and in the back there is more than enough headroom. However, the cost for the gigantic boot is reduced legroom for rear seat passengers.

The 1.8-litre 20-valve petrol is smoothness and light; comfortable and easy to drive, if let down by engine boom on the motorway. The diesel-engined car settles to a quiet life after a rattly start-up, though wind noise at motorway speeds is for some reason more noticeable than on the identically-bodied petrol car.

Given that so much of the Octavia has been adapted from the VW/Audi/Seat parts bin, why then should anyone pay more for the closely related cars in the VW stable rather than opting instead for the cheaper Skoda? Unless, of course, it's down to badge snobbery.

Skoda's confidence in the car is reflected in a ten-year anti-corrosion warranty on the fully galvanized body, plus a three-year paintwork guarantee. Although the car will not be launched in the UK for another 18 months, it will take the starring role on the Skoda stand at next month's Birmingham show

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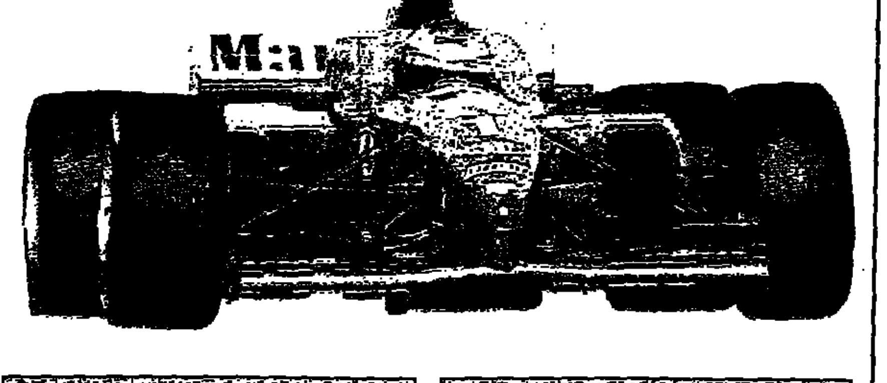
F1 Fantasy Drive update

Below we print the results of last week's Grand Prix in Italy, plus the cumulative points in each category for the 13 races in our fantasy game so far. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count towards our point scoring system. Also today we print the latest positions at the top of our leaderboard in the race for our £10,000 jackpot which shows the position, number of points to date, team name, and the name of the fantasy team manager. The table shows David Rokov leading with 7,353 points with Chris Dare falling to 16th position.

Our 13th race winner for the performance of her team in the Italian Grand Prix is Anne Moore from Pinner, Middx, whose team, Moore Crew, scored 600 points. She wins a trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Prix on September 22. She was selected at random from two managers who each scored 600 points.



TOTAL POINTS AFTER THE ITALIAN GP

	Last race points	Total Fantasy points
Group A		
01 M Schumacher	97	978
02 J Alesi	99	1185
03 D Hill	25	1094
Group B		
04 G Bérger	17	907
05 E Irvine	37	662
06 J Villeneuve	85	1233
Group C		
07 D Coulthard	17	942
08 M Hakkinen	91	1168
09 H-H Frentzen	15	784
Group D		
10 M Brundle	97	857
11 R Barrichello	95	1030
12 J Herbert	81	826
Group E		
13 M Salo	13	765
14 P Lamy	15	717
15 P Diniz	98	775
Group F		
16 U Katayama	85	603
17 J Verstappen	92	538
18 O Panis	12	872
Group G		
19 G Fisichella*	0	377
20 R Rosset	38	650
Group H		
21 L Badoer	0	365
22 A Montermini	0	167

Replaces T Marques

You can change up to four of your drivers on our transfer line below (Republic of Ireland 004 499 010 0332). Only one call is permitted in the transfer period — more than one call will invalidate your transfers. Transfers must result in a team comprising one driver from each of the eight groups.

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UNTIL NOON THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 19

0891 calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p at all other times

HOW YOUR DRIVERS SCORED POINTS AT MONZA

Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: D Hill 20 points; J Villeneuve 19; M Schumacher 18; M Hakkinen 17; D Coulthard 16; J Alesi 15; E Irvine 14; G Berger 13; M Brundle 12; R Barrichello 11; O Panis 10; J Herbert 9; H-H Frentzen 8; P Diniz 7; J Verstappen 6; U Katayama 5; M Salo 4; P Lamy 3; R Rosset 2.

Finishing points are scored by the top 20 drivers at the end of every grand prix: M Schumacher 20 points; J Alesi 19; M Hakkinen 18; M Brundle 17; R Barrichello 16; P Diniz 15; J Villeneuve 14; J Verstappen 13; J Herbert 12; U Katayama 11. (only ten finished)

Lap points one point for each lap completed: M Schumacher 53 points; J Alesi 53; M Hakkinen 53; M Brundle 53; R Barrichello 53; J Villeneuve 52; P Diniz 52; J Verstappen 52; J Herbert 51; U Katayama 51; R Rosset 36; E Irvine 23; P Lamy 12; M Salo 9; H-H Frentzen 7; D Hill 5; G Berger 4; O Panis 2; D Coulthard 1.

Improved position points three points for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position: P Diniz 24 points; J Verstappen 21; U Katayama 18; M Brundle 15; R Barrichello 15; J Alesi 12; J Herbert 9; M Schumacher 6; M Hakkinen 3.

F1 FANTASY DRIVE LEADERBOARD AFTER 13 RACES

01	7,353	RKV16	D Rokov
02	7,322	Aces	D Maynor
03	7,299	J Hunt U	J Hunt
04	7,268	The Simpletons	M Sim
04	7,268	Scab Car	R Howells
04	7,268	The Great 8	M Neathan
04	7,268	Boy Racer	J Moore
04	7,268	Cowgirls Racing	R Wheeler
04	7,268	Richie's Terrors	J Richardson
04	7,268	Chicken Roosters	S Maurice
04	7,268	Dream Team 8	D Springate
04	7,268	Phoney	D Park
13	7,262	KO16	D Rokov
13	7,262	Del Wall	K Walton
15	7,249	Cwywyl	R Groves
16	7,235	Locust	C Dare
17	7,225	Brothers Hotshots	W Lemon

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Italian Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday September 25 after the Portuguese Grand Prix.

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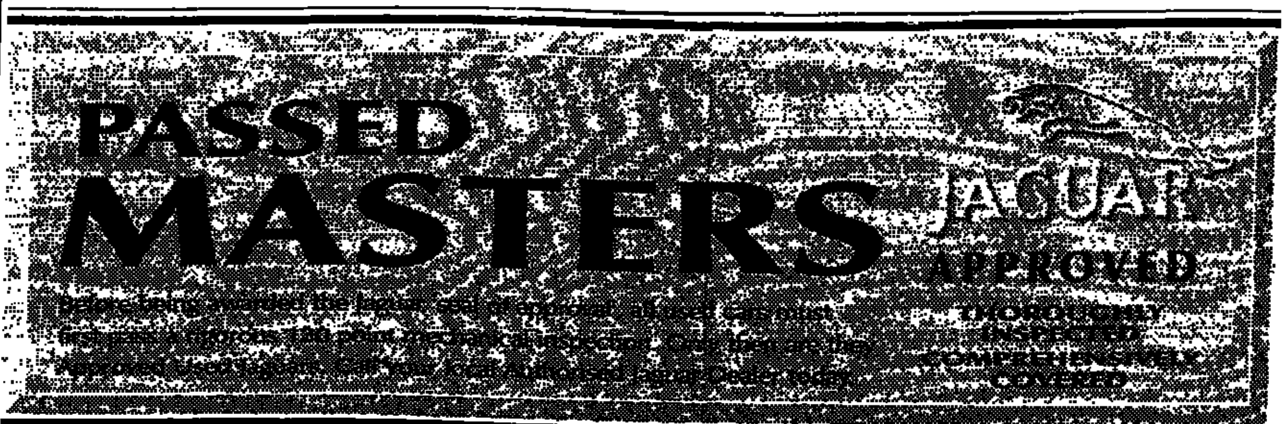

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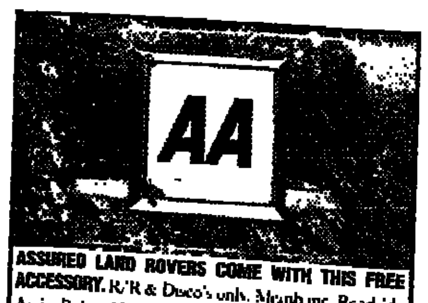

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CAR . . . TOONS

I'VE CRASHED INTO YOUR FIESTA, FATHER

In hindsight, **Vaughan Freeman** explains how not to buy a beautiful — but dodgy — old car

Love led astray by a classic chassis

It was the most beautiful of cars, a gorgeous Jaguar Mark II that usually smelt of leather and wood, except when you filled it up — then it reeked of the petrol pouring from the perforated tank.

Owning a Mark II, the original "blagger's Jag" beloved of 1960s bank robbers and Inspector Morse, was my one and only foray into classic car ownership. Swept away by the car's looks, £5,000 was paid for a car that lingers in the memory for its looks, and its repeated and costly trips to the garage.

Like thousands of other would-be classic owners who, come summer, swap cheques for automotive heartache, all it took to convince me that money and car should be exchanged, was a misty-eyed look and a test drive at night.

The petrol tank problem was revealed on our first long drive. The tank was built from two halves, riveted together along the midriff: all very well until rust takes hold of the rivets. Returning to the car after topping the tank for the first time, it was found sitting in a pool of petrol. A mere £900 later, the car had a leak-proof tank. The bank account had started not so much leaking as haemorrhaging.

The Jaguar only had seatbelts in the front, which meant that our new baby daughter, Emily, had to go in the front, while wife Muriel sat unrestrained in the back.

Having bought the car in the winter, another drawback, the non-existent Mark II heating, became apparent. Driving required pilot and passengers to wear full skiing gear to avoid hypothermia.

While Summer solved the cold problem, another arose, since clearly the petrol pump hated the warmer weather, though an adroit whack could sometimes ease the problem. More money was spent on the petrol pump, and more still on the handbrake. An outbreak of rust along the bottom of the boot and doors, together with a second child and redundancy, hastened the car's inevitable sale, but only after more money had been spent to stop the spreading tin worm, topped with a partial respray.

The AA says thousands fall prey to classic car madness every year. Its files bulge with examples of classic dreams turned nightmare.

Head of AA Vehicle Inspections Stephen Small says, "Between 60 and 70 per cent of the classic cars we see are in such poor condition that repair work to restore them to roadworthiness would cost a small fortune.

"The electronic paint-depth guage really comes into its own when inspecting classic cars. Much of the appalling restoration work is down to ignorance, yet the lengths some bad restorers will go to to disguise rotten bodywork — even using spray-painted strips of newspaper — is horrifying.

So how can a would-be classic buyer minimise possible catastrophe? The AA advises that any car be examined by an expert to spot potential problems, and that such a car is not bought as the prime source of transport, since reliability is still a relatively modern concept.

By paying as much as you can afford initially for the best condition car, you could save major bills, rather than following the alternative of buying a cheaper car and hoping to put it right later on.

•Research the make of car you are going to buy thoroughly, through specialist magazines and books, and make contact with an owners' club. Also research as thoroughly as possible the particular car you are looking at. Again, an owners' cub could well have information on the car.

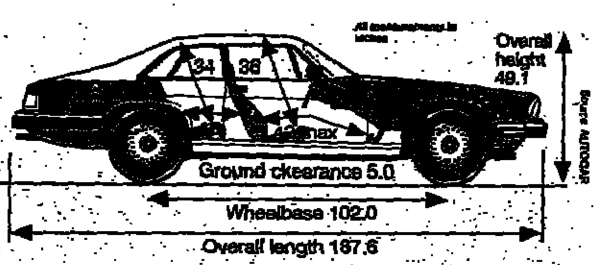
If all this sounds too daunting. There is some good news. Money can be saved by insuring through an owners' club or by a limited-mileage classic car policy. Also, cars over 25 years of age are now exempt from paying road tax although they must still display the "25 year" tax disc.

So, is classic car ownership worthwhile? Of course. The Jaguar is now gone, safe in the hands of an equally barmy and masochistic classic car loving friend, but the photographs of it sit snugly next to the children's, and the memories are fond. Now, if you'll excuse me while I flick through the For Sale pages of my classic car mag . . .

USED CAR BRIEF

JAGUAR XJS

To be driven on the Riviera with Grace Kelly at the wheel and Cary Grant by her side, the XJS is all about glamour. Launched in the wake of an oil crisis, omens were not good for the thirsty XJS which had to fill the shoes of the E-type that had died the year before. Critics said it had been designed by "a team of three and they weren't talking to each other." Two decades later the XJS is still going strong, but will be phased out when the XK8 goes on sale this year. Range radically revamped in 1991.



GOOD NEWS: Acknowledged as one of the best and most stylish grand tourers available despite its "flying buttress" pillars at the rear. Considering its luxury, style and superb engines, used-models are modestly priced. Convertible especially allows a jet-set lifestyle for coach tour prices.

BAD NEWS: While the XJS might be cheapish to buy, running one is definitely dearish. Insurance, repair and servicing bills can be eye-watering, and fuel bills a petrol firm's delight. Expect 19mpg overall for V12 models, 20mpg in town and 28mpg overall for the 4.0 litre.

SAFETY: Jaguar's XJ saloons are among the strongest and safest cars on the road and the XJS shares much of that strength. Anti-lock brakes became standard from 1988, and drivers side airbag from 1992.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: prices (including VAT) for V12 automatic; full stainless steel exhaust plus catalyst £800; front dampers £180 a pair; rear dampers £180 per pair; front brakepads £60; alternator £150 (exchange); starter motor £300; tyre £175.

PRICES: For earlier cars expect to pay £3,000 for a 1983 Y-reg 3.6-litre coupe, around £2,250 for a 1980 V12 5.3-litre coupe and £2,500 for a 1985 V12 5.3-litre cabriolet. Pay around £6,500 for a 1988 3.6-litre coupe, £15,000 for a 1990 V12 5.3-litre convertible and £20,000 for a 1993 4.0-litre convertible.

LOOK FOR: The six-cylinder 3.6-litre cars can help bring running costs down to the merely painful. Manual cars especially are more entertaining. The cabriolet is the car to look for, firmly in the Premier League for automotive class.

AVOID: Pre-1980 models might be cheap and buyable for less than £2,000, but the asking price will barely cover a basic wash and brush-up on the engine. High-mileage V12s must have full service history. Check for rust in wheelarches and sills, and in footwells of cabriolets, and soft-top roof for tears/rips.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1989 Jaguar XJS 5.3-litre V12 convertible costs a 55-year-old professional, male or female, living in Winchester with full no claims £308 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year-old male with one year no claims living in South London pays £3,415 and a similar female pays £2,878.

OVERALL: The XJS must come with full service history if heartbreak and financial ruin are to be avoided. Steer clear of DIY restoration jobs. Choice of 3.6-litre and 4-litre engines plus the V12s in 5.3 and 6-litre give performance up to 159mph. Supposedly 2 + 2 but back seats are for maps or tiny children only. Classy cruiser and a handful when parking but at least everyone will be watching.

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Ford Mondeo 2.0 Ghia	10450	10395	-0
Renault Clio 16V	10195	10450	2
Citroën Xantia	10950	10850	-0
Chrysler Wrangler 4.0 2dr	12150	12150	0
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Citroën XM 2.0i Estate VSX Turbo	12895	13095	1.5
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDL Independent	12950	12950	0.0
Ford Escort Si Cabriolet 1.8	10850	10850	0.0
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Mazda Xedos 6 1.6i	11895	11795	-0.84
Mitsubishi Galant 4WD/4WS 2.5 Coupé	12795	12795	0.00
Rover 216 Cabriolet	11595	11995	3.45
BMW 316i	12550	12550	0.00

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Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg, low mileage cars. Figures supplied by CAP Motor Research.

WHAT IS believed to be the world's first electric-powered hire car has joined the fleet of the multinational Hertz company in Austria. The Citroën AX Electrique is part of a pilot project in Vienna to introduce more environmentally friendly vehicles.

The car has a range of between 70 and 90 kilometres (45-55 miles) and can travel at up to 100kph (62mph). Daily hire rates start at about £33. Externally, the two-door car looks exactly like any other AX but it is powered by a bank of batteries which can be recharged overnight.

"If the electric-powered car proves popular, we plan to introduce similar vehicles in other Hertz locations in Austria," says a company official. The firm, which claims to be the world's largest in car hire, has 25 rental centres in Austria including seven at airports.

If the experiment is successful, the use of electric powered vehicles could be extended elsewhere in the network, which covers 130 countries.

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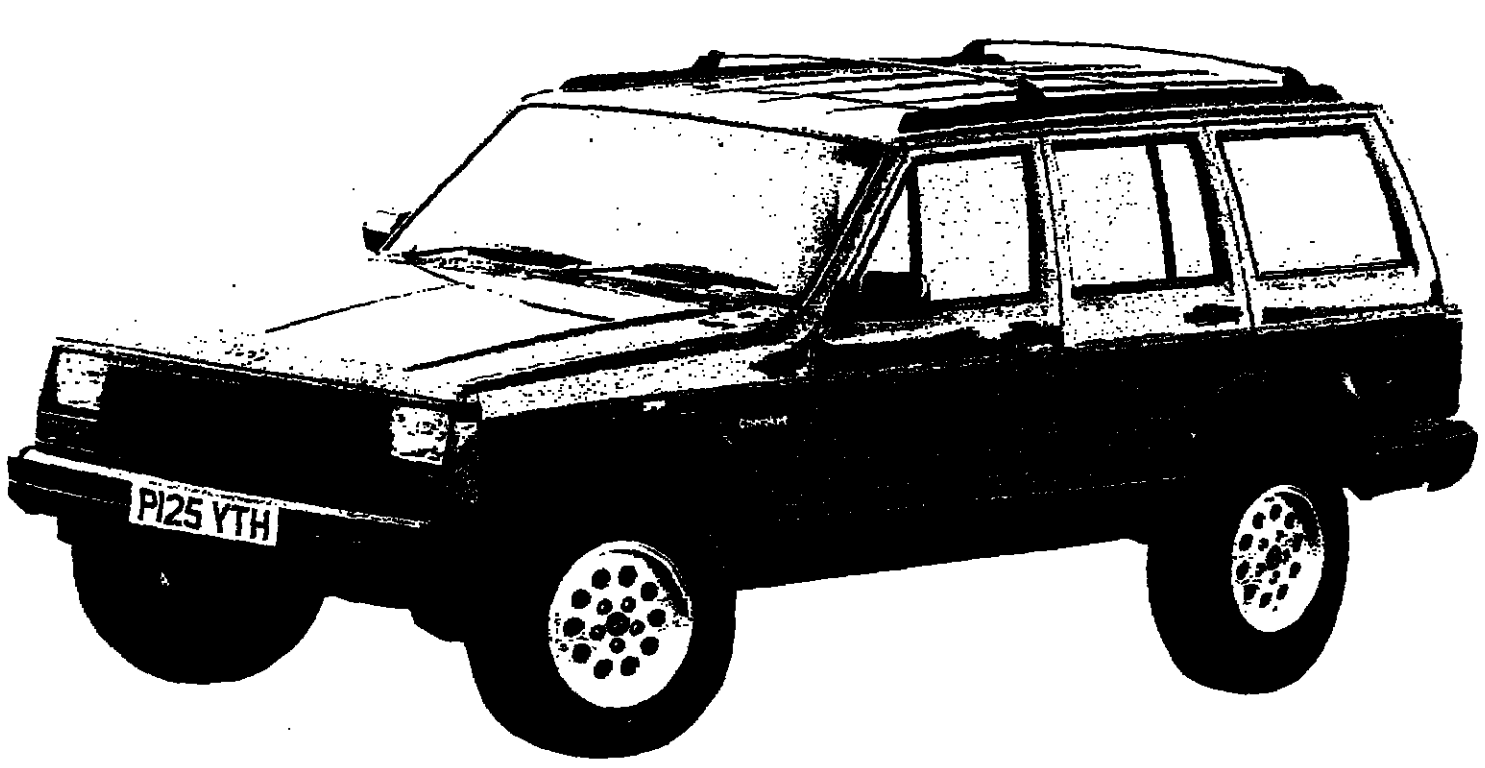
The cheap Jeep Cherokee is tall, rugged, and a perfect 4x4 for carrying modern-day children, says **Alan Copps**

Top of its class for the school run



The Sport's economy package may mean that it appears less well appointed, but it comes equipped with a good range of safety items

Long before the school run became an institution, we suburban children used to go to school on a thing called a bus. They can still be seen occasionally in some parts of the country. From the first day of the first term, we used to fight to get on top rather than suffer the indignity of "inside". In later years there might have been a point to this scramble, the upstairs of a bus was a safe place for a crafty drag on an illicit cigarette or to chat up girls from the neighbouring school. But in earlier years it was just for the sheer pleasure of looking down on the rest of the world.

Such childish instincts obviously endure through generations. Now that the school run has become a ritual, the thing to be seen in at the gates is a people carrier or, even better, a 4x4: vehicles from which young passengers can gaze down on mere mortals whose parents still use a saloon.

Perhaps children have a greater influence on car buying than many of us would like to admit, in some places the rush hour seems to consist almost entirely of such vehicles.

It's no surprise then that the prize in *The Times's* recent "back to school" competition was a Jeep Cherokee, exactly the kind of vehicle from which a modern child can enjoy looking down. The Cherokee Sport is an unashamed "cheap Jeep". With its choice of 2.5 or 4.0-litre petrol engines and an interior equipment level that is adequate rather than luxurious — at least compared to its leather-clad, all-electric, all-singing, all-dancing big brother, the Grand Cherokee — the Sport is designed as a value-for-money package that provides a full-size four-wheel-drive at a price designed to undercut the competition.

Not that the car is spartan, the 4-litre Sport that I drove comes with automatic transmission, anti-lock brakes, power-assisted steering, remote door locking and a driver's-side airbag. The windows are electrically operated all round and so are the door mirrors.

The Sport is fitted also with the Selec-Trac transmission system that offers two-wheel-drive or full-time four-wheel-drive for road use and part-time four-wheel-drive in high and low ranges for off-road use. This is a well-tried system and more flexible than some, but I wonder just how many people who buy these vehicles ever use this facility. It is estimated that no more than ten per cent of all 4x4 vehicles sold in this country ever go anywhere where the choice of off-road drive is required.

Jeep recognise this, and they also recognise the influence of children on the purchase of these cars, putting great stress on the safety features, the side-impact protection system and the all-round visibility. Since the Cherokee was introduced here in 1993, around 17,000 of the various versions have been sold in this country.

I had driven various Cherokees before but mainly off-road, where I had been impressed by their performance on some very tough courses built to test their capabilities. That sort of driving in the right conditions is great fun, so I was interested to see how this vehicle would handle on the road, especially around town.

The moment you hit your first traffic jam in a vehicle like this you realise that there's a lot to be said for looking down on the world. Having a driving position high enough to see the cause of the hold-up is somehow reassuring and often takes the sting out of sitting in a queue. The automatic, of course, takes a lot of the effort out of town driving and proved smooth enough in even the most jerky of slow-moving traffic. But I was disappointed with the power steering: at really low speeds it felt heavier than I expected and made parking in a small space an unnecessary challenge, although perhaps a bit of elbow work is a small price to pay for a vehicle that can keep several children entertained.

JEEP CHEROKEE 4.0 SPORT

Engine: four-litre, six-cylinder producing 184bhp at 4750rpm and 222lbs/ft torque at 3000rpm.

Transmission: four-speed automatic with Selec-Trac system offering choice of four positions for on or off-road use.
Performance: 0-60mph in 9.8 seconds. Max speed 108mph.

Economy: Urban, 15.7mpg; constant 56mph, 27.4mpg; constant 75mph, 19.6mpg.

Equipment: anti-lock brakes, power steering, remote locking, driver's airbag, electric windows and mirrors, four-speaker radio cassette with removabkle fascia, tilt-adjustable steering wheel.

Insurance Group: 14.

Price: £19,550 on the road.

As a practical family transport the Cherokee has several advantages, the cabin is roomy and the load area behind the rear seats, despite the intrusion of the upright spare wheel, can take at least as much luggage as most of the estate cars which might be alternative buys and more than most MPVs when the seats are in place. Despite the car's height, the flat floor makes it easy to load and unload.

But it was out of town where I warmed to this vehicle. The big engine makes for relaxed motorway cruising and there is not as much wind noise as I feared in such a high car. On country roads the well-controlled amount of body roll enables confident cornering, and the the driver's position makes overtaking easier.

Reliability is a must for any school-run vehicle, and on that score the Cherokee stands up well against its rivals. Although imported here only for the last three years, it is essentially an old design and has been running around the United States for long enough to have any problems sorted. For reassurance it also comes with a three-year/60,000-mile warranty and a one-year roadside assistance deal which is valid across Europe.

DR DASHBOARD

I want a nearly new bargain

Q **I want to buy a used car. With all those people having coughed up for P-platers, there must be a lot of part-exchange bargains around.**

A It sounds good doesn't it, but it's not that simple. P-plate sales mean a lot of clean, recent, privately-owned cars are on the market, but not enough to satisfy demand.

Q **But I read last year that this was the best time to buy. So what on earth has happened?**

A Last year and the year before a lot of very recent ex-rental and leasing cars flooded on to the market as the companies replenished fleets with new registration models. Manufacturers are now taking a much firmer hand in controlling that process.

Q **Does that mean used-car prices are higher now than they were at this time last year?**

A I'm afraid it's the law of supply and demand. Fewer cars on the market means better prices for those on offer.

Q **So where can I find a bargain? I don't want to end up with some high-mileage thrashed motor.**

A Funny you should say that. Mileage is one of the factors that might indicate a bargain these days. A rep's car may get a lot of use but it is also likely to have been properly maintained. A good Mondeo, Cavalier or equivalent Rover with a full-service history is likely to provide you with years of reliable motoring.

Q **Does that apply to larger cars, too? I could do with the legroom.**

A Mass-produced executive cars like the For Scorpio, Rover 800 an Vauxhall Omega depreciat quickly in the first year, s N-plate versions are attractive; older models like th Senator and Granada ar real bargains in terms o space for cash. The othe area where you might find a bargain is the quality sector with ex-fleet BMWs offering excellent value.

Q ***Can I get a bargain if I go to an auction? I hear that's where a lot of fleet sales are made.***

A If you know exactly what you want, go early, take a good look at the car and make sure you get a look at its service history, then you might find a bargain at auction. But take great care to do your homework, fix a reasonable price in your mind and remember not to get carried away in the heat of the auction-room bidding.

Q **If I stick to a dealer what are the golden rules to remember?**

A Decide exactly what you want and set yourself a budget. Always check the car's papers (HPI on 01722-422422 will run an identity check on the vehicle for you). If you want a car inspected, ask the AA, on 0345 500610 or RAC 0800 333660. Always take a test drive of at least 20 minutes.

Q **And where can I get information about used-car prices?**

A There are a number of price guides on the market. One of the easiest to use is *The Book* which includes a guide to running costs as well as prices and road test verdicts from *What Car?* For further information: 0181 943 5044.

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ℓick Wakeman tells **Chris Smith** why being caught drink-driving opened his eyes

Rock star's dream: an old Cresta

ar addict Rick Wakeman, keyboard player with the rock group Yes, is a successful performer and oser in his own right; his solo s include *Journey to the re of the Earth* and the dtrack to the forthcoming ael Caine film *Bullet to ng*.

true rock'n'roll tradition, he is le hazy about the exact number rs he has owned, though it is in egion of 250. Wakeman says it he schoolboy thing that has r left him, "I can't help it. It's nothing to do with being flash ı lifestyle thing. Big cars, fast , or just nice old cars are derful. It's as simple as that."

v did you first learn how to e?

en I was about fifteen, I had a nd who worked as a driving tructor who gave me lessons en I came home from school. parents, of course, didn't know l gave me ten driving lessons h the ABC School of Driving for seventeenth birthday. The instructor was shocked when, on the st lesson, I got in and drove off. I all him saying, "there's more to s than meets the eye". A few eks later I passed first time in a kl Cortina.

hat was your first car?

1958 side-valve Ford Anglia E, hich I bought for £30 from . C. Slim Motors in Sudbury. The surance cost £8 from a company ı Southall who were notorious for ɔt paying up. Its top speed was 3mph flat out, downhill with the wind behind us and everyone leaning forward. The seats were torn and it had no floor because although it was only eight years old, it was rotten. I absolutely loved it and polished what little metal there was on it. I part-exchanged it for a 1957 Vauxhall Victor estate.

What cars do you drive now?

A 1985 Dodge B250 van that I love dearly, a 1962 Vauxhall Cresta Friary estate and a Jaguar XJ6. The Cresta is a dream fulfilled. When I first started out I badly wanted the PA Cresta but I couldn't afford it.

What is your dream car?

A Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud. I have owned several in the past and it has the most wonderful view out across a sensational long bonnet. I would like another, even though they are totally impractical in today's driving conditions.

What is your most hated car?

My wife's Range Rover. It is a pig.

STEERING COLUMN

The electrics have been a complete nightmare. Everything that can go wrong has — from the brakes to the steering. It is the pits. I can't begin to tell you how much I hate it."

Do you like driving?

I have a love affair with cars and driving is part of it.

What is your worst habit in the car?

I have two. Missing turnings and exits on motorways by daydreaming. The second is driving without my glasses on; I am very long-sighted. Passengers are less terrified knowing I can read the road signs.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

Coaches get to me more than anything else, especially when they do things they shouldn't — like being in the fast lane or cutting people up. That winds me up more than a lunatic going by at 140mph.

What do you listen to on your stereo while driving?

My radio is permanently tuned to Radio 4, although I have also tried Talk Radio in the past. Radio 3 gets an airing on early mornings if I have a long drive. I take loads of comedy tapes with me — Hancock and the Navy Lark, and full-length operas as I travel on my own a lot.

What is the most unusual thing you have ever done in your car?

I once relieved myself of a seriously full bladder while stuck in traffic in America. I was on a multi-lane freeway and I couldn't hold on any longer. I had four large bottles of Gatorade in a cool box, so I emptied them out of the window and filled three while smiling sweetly at the drivers in the cars around me. Several of them were bemused by the look of ecstasy on my face. I hope to this day that a thirsty tramp didn't retrieve the bottles from the service station bin that I dumped them in.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

I would re-test people over the age of 70. Driving has changed vastly from when they first started. I'm pleased the driving test is being made harder — it's much too easy. I would also invest in skid-pan centres. The test doesn't tell new drivers what to do if, say, you're side-swiped and go into a skid. The money would be recovered from the drop in the cost of medical bills after accidents.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Worse. I was banned for drunk-driving, twelve years ago. I fell into the trap of being 100 per cent convinced that I was perfectly OK to drive after two drinks. I got caught doing 35mph in a 30 limit in a bright gold Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow. I was stunned when I failed, but it opened my eyes and taught me a real big lesson. I was lucky it was only a minor speeding offence, it could have been a child I'd run over.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

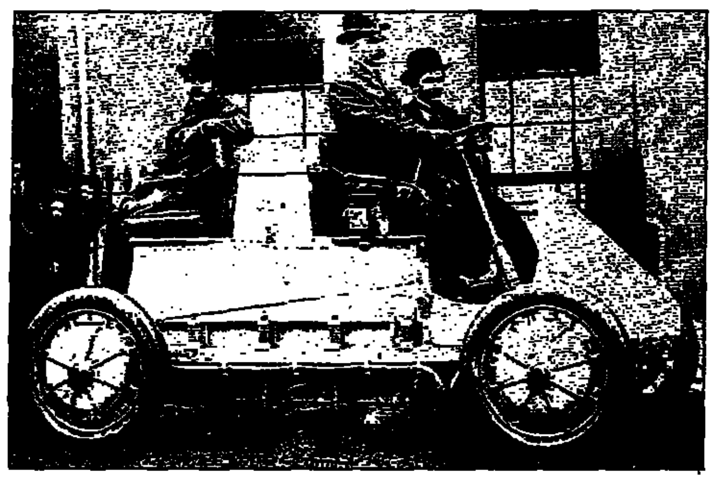
The advertisements in the motor section of *Exchange and Mart* or the *Thames Valley Auto Trader*. I have great fun going through them, and the classic car mags looking for good buys. That's how I got the Cresta.

CHRIS SMITH

Wakeman with his Vauxhall Cresta Estate: "When I started I wanted one, but couldn't afford it."

Green hunt is on for Porsche's electric shocker

Ian Morton joins the search for an old idea whose time may finally have come



The sinister-looking Lohner-Porsche car, last heard of in Luton

It was a solid, even sinister contraption which made no concessions to the carriagelike elegance expected of the automobile of the 1890s. The creation of a virtually unknown electrical engineer working in Vienna who had patented its systems in 1897. It was the sensation of the Paris World Exhibition of 1898. And it disappeared in England.

The hunt is on for clues to what happened to one of the very first cars designed by Ferdinand Porsche: a vehicle whose wheelhub electric motors first demonstrated a principle that modern engineers recognise as having huge potential for greening the motor industry.

As Porsche approaches the centenary of its founding father's early efforts for the Viennese carmaker Jakob Lohner, its archivists are urgently seeking information on the Paris car's fate.

They know it was a four-wheel drive development of an even earlier design in which only the front wheels were powered.

And they know that it was sold on September 6, 1900, to "E. W. Hart, Esq. aus Luton in England" for 15,000 French francs — the faded photograph reproduced here shows Porsche sitting beside the new English owner.

But who was Mr Hart? Neither Porsche nor the Viennese motor museum, which has a number of Lohner, cars has information later than 1900.

Electric cars were the great hope at the end of the 19th century, but Porsche's monster was different. Instead of a 'proper' transmission carried a 2.5 PD electric motor in each wheel. Porsche also developed a "mixte" or hybrid system whereby the power for the hub motors was generated primarily by a small petrol engine.

Porsche's employer Lohner dropped both battery and hybrid systems when it became apparent that neither would stand up commercially against internal combustion and in 1906 sold the hub-motor and hybrid patents. The hub-motors concept made it to into space in 1971 when it was used on NASA's moon buggy. The hybrid principle's potential for low-pollution motoring is now recognised.

The idea features among many of the 125 projects known to be in development by major carmakers.

Porsche is involved in some of these projects, though is bound not to divulge which. And now the company is delving down to its deepest roots to register its claim to seminal involvement with this rediscovered innovation.

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

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HOW TO ENTER

The Times, in association with *The Sunday Times* and the Royal Mail, is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the British motor industry by giving readers the chance to win one of the following five cars:

- Triumph TR3A, 1960
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- Jaguar XK 120, 1948

PLUS, every reader of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* entering our competition can receive an exclusive, limited-edition First Day Cover, with details of five classic marques of postwar sports cars, free of charge.

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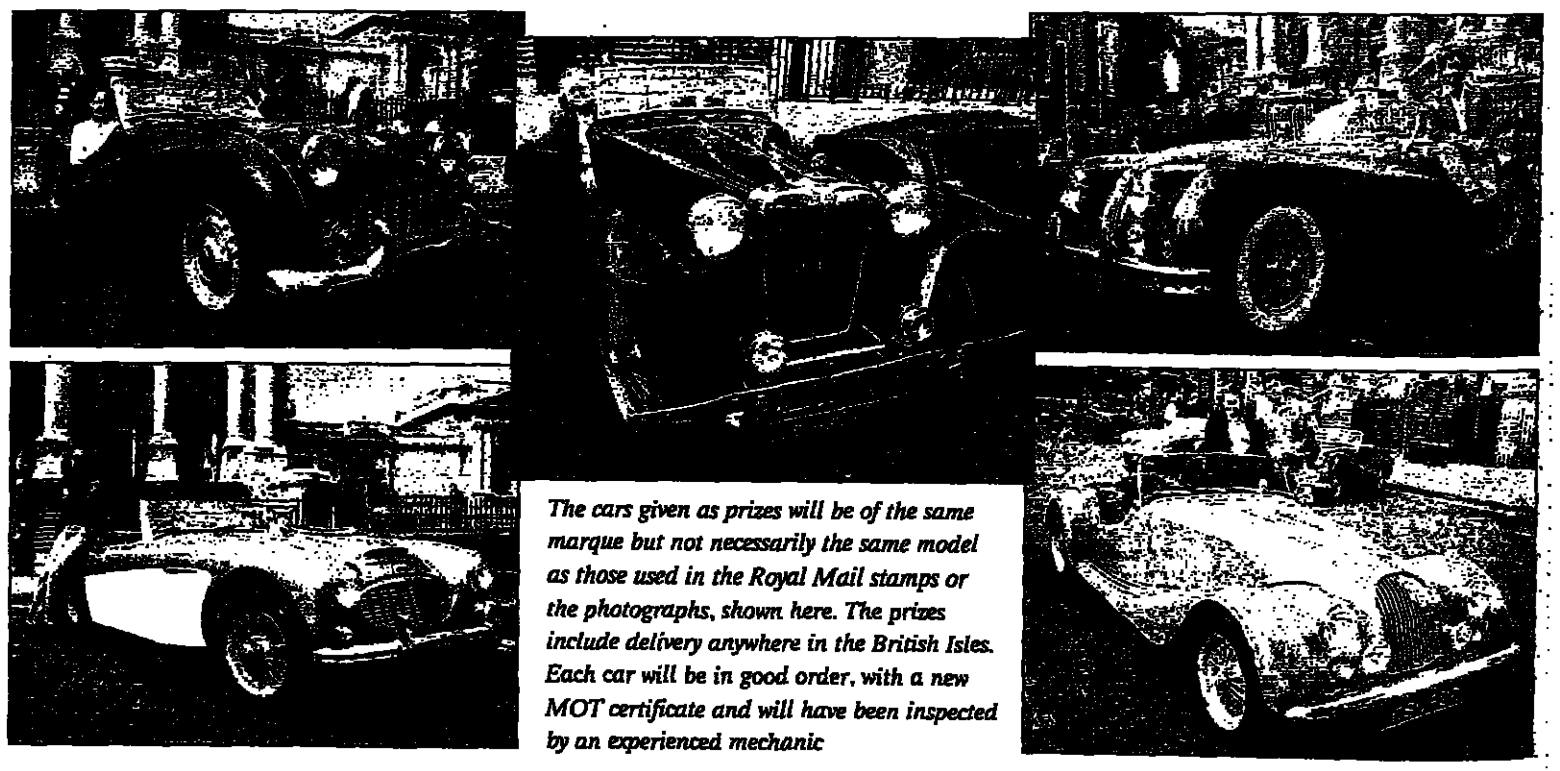
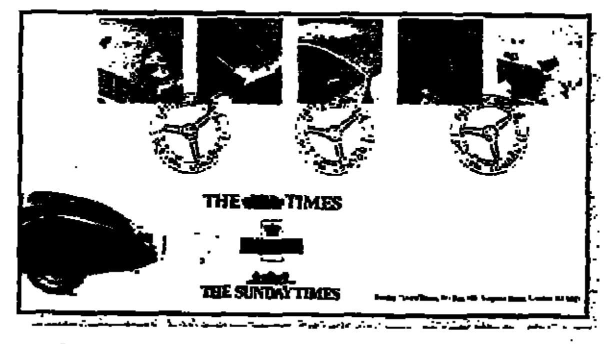


The cars given as prizes will be of the same marque but not necessarily the same model as those used in the Royal Mail stamps or the photographs, shown here. The prizes include delivery anywhere in the British Isles. Each car will be in good order, with a new MOT certificate and will have been inspected by an experienced mechanic

FREE limited-edition first day covers

The first day cover, pictured right, has been produced by the Royal Mail exclusively for Times Newspapers. It features five stamps which will be launched on Tuesday, October 1, ranging in denominations from 20p to 63p.

Royal Mail decided to mark British motoring's celebration of two centenaries this year with a set of five special stamps. The first event of 100 years ago was the Locomotives on Highways Act 1896 which allowed the Local Government Board to raise the speed limit for cars from 4mph to 12mph. The British motor industry also began in 1896 with the registration of Daimler to manufacture British-built cars in Coventry.



- *Presentation packs, first day covers, postcards, and the Classic Sports Car stamps are available by post from the British Philatelic Bureau: call 0345 641 641 (Monday to Friday); and most Post Offices — for more details call 0345 22 33 44. First day covers are also available from BPCPA: 0181 886 6744*

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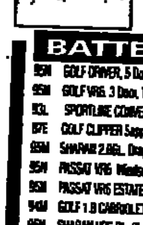

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Alan Copps reports on the sensational prices at the auction of an eccentric American recluse's extraordinary collection of rare and unrestored classics

Stutz hoard's stunning million-dollar sale

The sale of the extraordinary collection of classic Stutzes and other cars — probably the biggest "barn d" of recent years — gathered by eccentric A. K. Miller at his me in East Orange, Vermont, ceeded all expectations last ekend.

Buyers from around the world avelled to the remote farm where e reclusive Miller had kept the rs shut up in sheds and barns for cades. The story of his collection as told exclusively in *Car 96* last onth. The auction tent was over-owing with buyers who sent the total for the cars, including 37 Stutzes, and related spares to more than two million dollars. Every lot was sold and the final value of bids reached £1,398,541.

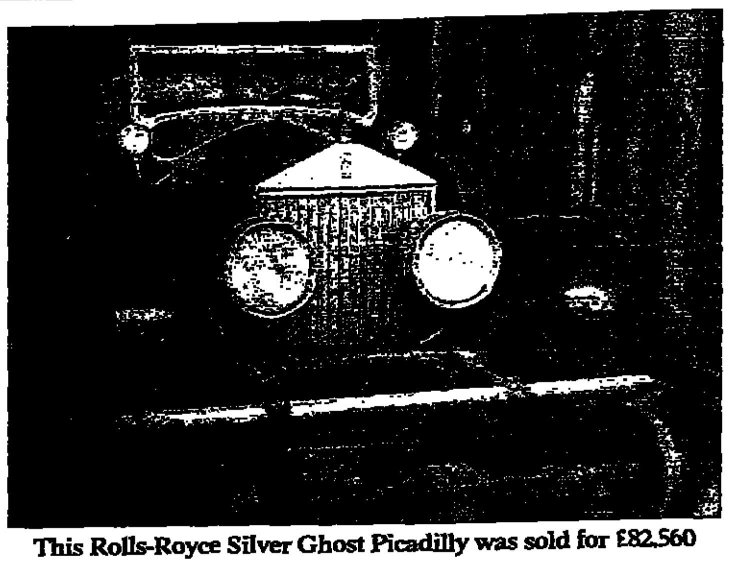
Top price of £110,720 was paid for a 1916 Stutz Model 4C Bearcat, closely followed by £107,200 for a 1933 Stutz DV32 Roadster and £96,640 for a 1930 Stutz Eight supercharged coupé. The best non-Stutz was a 1926 Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Picadilly Roadster which went for £82,560.

Malcolm Welford, Christie's expert said: "The great attraction was that these cars were all in original condition. The Rolls-Royce, for example, was virtually untouched and all the Stutzes were unrestored. The interest in the vast amount of spares and automobilia that Miller had accumulated was enormous. One very mixed lot, described simply as 'remaining contents of Shed 1' sold for $9,200 against a top estimate of just $500. People were attracted by the extraordinary story behind this collection."

On the first day of the sale Christie's also held their annual auction at the Beaulieu Autojumble at the National Motor Museum. Highest price there was £100,500 for a 1928 4½-litre Bentley which had been in the same ownership since 1939 and had been completely restored in the 1960s.

Most striking prices, however, were those fetched by two 1970s open Mercedes-Benzes from the estate of Mrs Olivia Wright, who lived in Oxfordshire and died earlier this year. She obviously enjoyed some stylish and sporty motoring since the two cars shared garage space with a drophead Rolls-Royce and a Ford Mustang. A 1970 280SE Cabriolet estimated at £15-£20,000 fetched £34,500 and a 2.8-litre "Pagoda top" 280SL convertible from 1971 fetched £20,700 against an estimate of £8-£12,000. "It shows that people are prepared to pay very good prices for such well-engineered cars even when they are comparatively recent," said Welford.

Next weekend, Brooks will be selling a rare piece of Yorkshire motoring history at the Great Yorkshire Showground in Harrogate. A Bradford-built 1930 Jowett Grey Knight saloon which has been owned for the last 17 years by Michael Koch-Osborne, grandson of the much-lamented company's founder, is estimated at £6-£7,000.



This Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost Picadilly was sold for £82,560

Your emotion set in motion

Vaughan Freeman on Citroën's launch of the lifestyle concept vehicle

Citroën's range is based the carmaker's do-everything five-seat recreational vehicle, the Berlingo Multispace hatchback, now on sale in France

Motorists of the future will be able to mix and match their cars just as today they pick suits for work, shorts for the beach, or a little black number for that special evening out.

Not so long ago the family car had to be the Jack of all trades, but increasingly car designers are following the world of fashion. Setting the pace is Citroën, with the unveiling this week of a car tailored for the beach, another for weekend drives in the country with friends, and a third for taking the children to visit their favourite Aunt.

All are based on Citroen's do-everything five-seat recreational vehicle, the new three-door Berlingo Multispace hatchback, which is already on sale in France.

The "fantasy" derivatives will be seen at next month's Paris and Birmingham Motor Shows and it is clear they will have a strong influence on the design and development of the French manufacturer's future vehicles.

The Berlingo Multispace gets round the main criticism of recreational vehicles, which is that luggage space suffers as the passengers pile in. It features five seats, huge headroom thanks to the very tall roofline, and enough room between the rear seat and the full-length rear hatch for 300kg of payload.

The main drawback is that apart from the rear hatch there are only the driver and front passenger doors; rear seat passengers have to scramble into the back, not ideal for an arthritic older person or for parents struggling to clunk-click children into the rear.

Citroën communications director Bernard Guerreau says: "The Berlingo Multispace is a car for all countries, including England, and the car will be launched in England by early next year. It is not an Espace or an Evasion. It is smaller, and very cheap. In France it sells for Fr85,000 (around £10,000)."

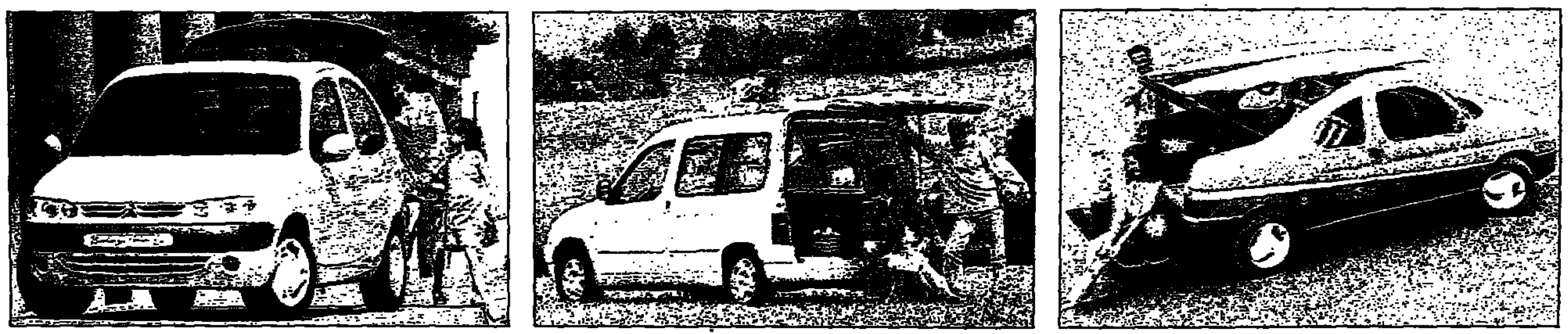
Citroen has used the Multispace as the platform for all three concept cars. The Beach Coupé features a cork gearstick knob, just two front seats in the cabin, and an open back area like a pick-up truck with pull-out deckchairs for Baywatch fans and a tailgate that lowers for use as a ramp for getting surfboards or cycles on board.

Then there is the Grand Voyager which, says Citroën, "is designed for wide open spaces, and the call of the wild, an invitation to travel with friends". With a full-length sunroof, the delicately clad Voyager, with silk and brocade upholstery, is clearly not designed with sticky-fingered younger passengers in mind.

Most interesting of the three is the Bubble Saloon, which looks as if somebody has inflated a Nissan Micra to near bursting point. The pumpkin-shaped Bubble is about as round as a car can get without rolling away. The result inside though is metres of head and leg room, front and back for even the tallest of the five passengers in a voluminous interior.

Will the three make it into production though? Citroën and other manufacturers believe Europe, where 75 per cent of new cars are saloons, will follow America where only 60 per cent are saloons and the rest a mix of off-roaders, MPVs and pick-ups. In Europe, such alternative vehicles had only 10 per cent of the new car market in 1985, compared to 15 per cent now and a predicted 20 per cent by 2005.

Which is where Berlingo and its concept derivatives come in, says Citroën marketing and planning director Luc Epron: "Concept cars are a practical exploration, an ongoing evaluation allowing us to establish a dialogue with today's car users about what tomorrow's car might look like." In other words, big crowds around the Citroën stand at Birmingham could well see us driving cork-lined cars with deckchairs in the back by the turn of the century.



The Grand Voyager, left, is designed for the great outdoors. The Bubble Saloon, centre, offers masses of room. The Beach Coupé has an open back with pull-out deckchairs

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